

**Sec.1-3 Temporary & Executed; Note to 52:18A-218.4**

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2022               **CHAPTER:** 73

**NJSA:** Sec.1-3 Temporary & Executed; Note to 52:18A-218.4  
(Establishes "COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission." )

**BILL NO:** S144               (Substituted for A2159 (1R))

**SPONSOR(S)** Patrick J. Diegnan and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 1/11/2022

**COMMITTEE:**               **ASSEMBLY:** State and Local Government

**SENATE:** Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**   **ASSEMBLY:** 3/24/2022

**SENATE:** 5/26/2022

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 7/29/2022

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (Second Reprint enacted)               Yes

**S144**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)               Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**   **ASSEMBLY:**               Yes       State & Local Gov.

**SENATE:**                       Yes       Health, Human Serv.,  
& Senior Citizens

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                       Yes

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                       No

**A2159 (1R)**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)               Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**   **ASSEMBLY:**               Yes       State & Local Gov.

**SENATE:**                       No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                       No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                       No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

end

§§1-3  
T & E and  
Note to  
C.52:18A-218.4  
§4  
C.52:18A-218.4  
§5  
Note

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 73, *approved July 29, 2022*  
Senate, No. 144 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the “COVID-19 Frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> Healthcare  
2 Worker Memorial Commission.”

3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 <sup>2</sup>[1. The Legislature finds and declares that the coronavirus  
8 disease 2019 pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on the global  
9 community, the country, and this State. This global pandemic has  
10 claimed **[over a million]** millions of lives worldwide, including  
11 **[many]** the lives of frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> healthcare workers **[that]** who  
12 have displayed tremendous courage and dedication in their efforts  
13 to treat <sup>1</sup>and support<sup>1</sup> patients affected by the coronavirus disease  
14 2019. Many of these <sup>1</sup>frontline and<sup>1</sup> healthcare workers, **[from all**  
15 **different healthcare fields]** including those **[working in]** providing  
16 healthcare services in police and fire departments, rose **[above]**  
17 beyond their usual scope of duties to combat multiple surges in the  
18 **[surging]** number of cases of coronavirus disease 2019, often with  
19 limited healthcare resources. As one of the early epicenters of the  
20 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, it is important for this State to  
21 memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and recognize  
22 the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

23 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting and proper  
24 **[and fitting]** to establish a commission, to be known as the  
25 COVID-19 Frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> Healthcare Worker Memorial  
26 Commission, to design and oversee the construction of a memorial  
27 dedicated to the frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> healthcare workers **[that]** who have  
28 lost their lives treating <sup>1</sup>and supporting<sup>1</sup> patients during the  
29 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.]<sup>2</sup>

30

31 <sup>2</sup>[2. a. There is established **[.]** in, but not of, the Department of  
32 State, a commission known as the “COVID-19 Frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup>  
33 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission **[.]**.” **[for the purposes**  
34 **of honoring and recognizing]** The purpose of the commission shall

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted February 14, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted March 17, 2022.

1 be to design and oversee the construction of a memorial that honors  
2 and recognizes the frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> healthcare workers **【that】** who  
3 lost their lives in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019  
4 pandemic.

5 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who  
6 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup>  
7 healthcare workers, including frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> healthcare workers in  
8 police and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly,  
9 the Senate President, and the Governor shall each appoint three  
10 public members **【of】** to the commission.

11 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be  
12 filled in the same manner as is provided for the original  
13 appointments **【are made】** .

14 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
15 compensation.

16 e. The commission shall organize as soon as **【may be】**  
17 practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members and  
18 shall elect from among its members a chairperson. The presence of  
19 five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

20 f. The commission **【will】** shall meet <sup>1</sup>**【regularly】** at least twice  
21 per year<sup>1</sup> **【as the commission determines, or】** at times and places  
22 determined by the commission, as well as at the call of the  
23 chairperson or a majority of commission's membership.

24 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.  
25 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings  
26 shall be posted on the Department of State's Internet website.

27 h. The commission **【also】** may request the assistance and  
28 services of the employees of any State, county or municipal  
29 department, board, bureau, commission, task force or agency as it  
30 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes. The  
31 Department of State shall provide staffing and administrative  
32 support to the commission.<sup>2</sup>

33  
34 <sup>2</sup>**【3.** a. The commission shall select a suitable design and  
35 location for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the  
36 frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> healthcare workers **【that】** who lost their lives in the  
37 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, and shall determine appropriate  
38 methods of financing the construction and maintenance of the  
39 memorial. Following the selection of a design and specific location  
40 for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the  
41 commission shall oversee the construction of the memorial.

42 b. The commission may initiate fundraising measures and may  
43 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and  
44 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the  
45 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund  
46 established **【by】** pursuant to section 4 of this act.

1 c. 1Not later than 30 days following the first meeting and each  
2 meeting thereafter, the commission shall prepare and submit a  
3 progress report on its activities to the Governor and, pursuant to  
4 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

5 d.<sup>1</sup> Not later than 18 months following the effective date of this  
6 act, the commission shall prepare and submit a final report to the  
7 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
8 19.1), to the Legislature **],** pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
9 (C.52:14-19.1), a final report**],** which report shall include the final  
10 design selected for the memorial, the exact location selected for the  
11 memorial, and the amount of funding necessary for construction and  
12 maintenance of the memorial.**]]<sup>2</sup>**

13  
14 <sup>2</sup>[4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a  
15 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “COVID-19 Frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup>  
16 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund.” The fund shall be credited  
17 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup>  
18 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to  
19 subsection b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may  
20 thereafter be donated or appropriated to the fund. All **[interested]**  
21 interest earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.  
22 The moneys in the fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer  
23 and held in the fund until appropriated by law. No later than one  
24 year **[.]** following the effective date of this act, and annually  
25 thereafter, the State Treasurer shall certify to the Legislature and the  
26 **[Commissioner of Environmental Protection]** Secretary of State the  
27 total amount of moneys in the fund.**]]<sup>2</sup>**

28  
29 <sup>2</sup>1. The Legislature finds and declares that the coronavirus  
30 disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on  
31 the global community, the country, and this State. This global  
32 pandemic has claimed millions of lives worldwide, including the  
33 lives of frontline and healthcare workers who have displayed  
34 tremendous courage and dedication in their efforts to treat and  
35 support patients affected by COVID-19. Many of these frontline  
36 and healthcare workers, including those providing healthcare  
37 services in police and fire departments, went beyond their usual  
38 scope of duties to combat multiple surges in the number of COVID-  
39 19 cases, often with limited healthcare resources. As one of the  
40 early epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for this  
41 State to memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and  
42 recognize the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

43 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting and proper  
44 to establish a commission, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline  
45 and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission, to design and  
46 oversee the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline

1 and healthcare workers who have lost their lives treating and  
2 supporting patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2</sup>

3  
4 <sup>2</sup>2. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of  
5 State, a commission to be known as the “COVID-19 Frontline and  
6 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission.” The purpose of the  
7 commission shall be to design and oversee the construction of a  
8 memorial that honors and recognizes the frontline and healthcare  
9 workers who lost their lives in the fight against the COVID-19  
10 pandemic.

11 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who  
12 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline and  
13 healthcare workers, including frontline and healthcare workers in  
14 police and fire departments, individuals with knowledge in erecting  
15 monuments or other general experience in construction or  
16 architecture, individuals with experience in grant funding or in  
17 business administration, and any other expertise as determined by  
18 the Governor. The Governor shall appoint three public members to  
19 the commission, shall appoint three members to the commission  
20 upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and  
21 shall appoint three members to the commission upon  
22 recommendation of the President of the Senate.

23 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be  
24 filled in the same manner as is provided for the original  
25 appointments.

26 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
27 compensation.

28 e. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable after  
29 the appointment of a majority of its members and shall elect from  
30 among its members a chairperson. The presence of five members of  
31 the commission shall constitute a quorum.

32 f. The commission shall meet at least twice per year at times  
33 and places determined by the commission, as well as at the call of  
34 the chairperson or a majority of commission’s membership.

35 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.  
36 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings  
37 shall be posted by the commission on the webpage established for  
38 the commission, a link to which shall be posted on the Department  
39 of State’s Internet website.

40 h. The commission may request the assistance and services of  
41 the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,  
42 bureau, commission, task force or agency as it may require and as  
43 may be available to it for its purposes. The commission may,  
44 subject to available funds, hire staff as are necessary to effectuate  
45 the purposes of this act, including to provide clerical and  
46 administrative staff. The commission shall hire at least one  
47 individual to provide clerical support to the commission.<sup>2</sup>

1       <sup>2</sup>3. a. The commission shall select a suitable design and location  
2 for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline and  
3 healthcare workers who lost their lives during the COVID-19  
4 pandemic, and shall determine appropriate methods of financing the  
5 construction and maintenance of the memorial. Following the  
6 selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the  
7 receipt of sufficient funding, the commission shall oversee the  
8 construction of the memorial.

9       b. The commission may initiate fundraising measures and may  
10 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and  
11 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the  
12 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund  
13 established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

14       c. Not later than 18 months following the effective date of this  
15 act, the commission shall prepare and submit a final report to the  
16 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
17 19.1), to the Legislature, which report shall include the final design  
18 selected for the memorial, the exact location selected for the  
19 memorial, and the amount of funding necessary for construction and  
20 maintenance of the memorial.<sup>2</sup>

21  
22       <sup>2</sup>4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a  
23 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “COVID-19 Frontline and  
24 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund.” The fund shall be credited  
25 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline and  
26 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to  
27 subsection b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may  
28 thereafter be donated or appropriated to the fund. All interest  
29 earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The  
30 moneys in the fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer and  
31 held in the fund until appropriated by law. No later than one year  
32 following the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the  
33 State Treasurer shall certify to the Governor, the Legislature, and  
34 the Secretary of State the total amount of moneys in the fund.<sup>2</sup>

35  
36       5. The act shall take effect immediately, and sections 1 through  
37 3 of this act shall expire on the first day of the sixth month next  
38 following the completion of the [memorial, except for section 4,  
39 which shall remain in effect] COVID-19 Frontline <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> Healthcare  
40 Worker Memorial.

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44  
45       Establishes “COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker  
46 Memorial Commission.”

# SENATE, No. 144

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Greenstein, Lagana, Pou and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.





1 AN ACT establishing the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker  
2 Memorial Commission.”

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the coronavirus  
8 disease 2019 pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on the global  
9 community, the country, and this State. This global pandemic has  
10 claimed over a million lives worldwide, including many lives of  
11 frontline healthcare workers that have displayed tremendous  
12 courage and dedication in their efforts to treat patients affected by  
13 the coronavirus disease 2019. Many of these healthcare workers,  
14 from all different healthcare fields including those working in  
15 police and fire departments, rose above their usual scope of duties  
16 to combat the surging cases of coronavirus disease 2019, often with  
17 limited healthcare resources. As one of the early epicenters of the  
18 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, it is important for this State to  
19 memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and recognize  
20 the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

21 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting proper and  
22 fitting to establish a commission to be known as the COVID-19  
23 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission to design and  
24 oversee the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline  
25 healthcare workers that have lost their lives treating patients during  
26 the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

27

28 2. a. There is established, in but not of the Department of  
29 State, a commission known as the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare  
30 Worker Memorial Commission,” for the purposes of honoring and  
31 recognizing the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in  
32 the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

33 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who  
34 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline  
35 healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police  
36 and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the  
37 Senate President, and the Governor shall each appoint three public  
38 members of the commission.

39 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be  
40 filled in the same manner as the original appointments are made.

41 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
42 compensation.

43 e. The commission shall organize as soon as may be  
44 practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members and  
45 shall elect from among its members a chairperson. The presence of  
46 five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

- 1 f. The commission will meet regularly as the commission  
2 determines, or at the call of the chairperson or a majority of  
3 commission's membership.
- 4 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.  
5 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings  
6 shall be posted on the State's website.
- 7 h. The commission also may request the assistance and services  
8 of the employees of any State, county or municipal department,  
9 board, bureau, commission, task force or agency as it may require  
10 and as may be available to it for its purposes.
- 11
- 12 3. a. The commission shall select a suitable design and location  
13 for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline  
14 healthcare workers that lost their lives in the coronavirus disease  
15 2019 pandemic and shall determine appropriate methods of  
16 financing the construction and maintenance of the memorial.  
17 Following the selection of a design and specific location for the  
18 memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission  
19 shall oversee the construction of the memorial.
- 20 b. The commission may initiate fund raising measures and may  
21 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and  
22 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the  
23 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund  
24 established by section 4 of this act. Not later than 18 months  
25 following the effective date of this act, the commission shall  
26 prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant  
27 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a final report, which  
28 shall include the final design selected for the memorial, the exact  
29 location selected for the memorial, and the amount of funding  
30 necessary for construction and maintenance of the memorial.
- 31
- 32 4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a  
33 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "COVID-19 Frontline  
34 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund." The fund shall be credited  
35 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare  
36 Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to subsection  
37 b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may thereafter be  
38 donated or appropriated to the fund. All interest earned on  
39 moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The moneys in the  
40 fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer and held in the  
41 fund until appropriated by law. No later than one year, following  
42 the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the State  
43 Treasurer shall certify to the Legislature and the Commissioner of  
44 Environmental Protection the total amount of moneys in the fund.
- 45
- 46 5. The act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the  
47 first day of the sixth month following the completion of the  
48 memorial, except for section 4, which shall remain in effect.

STATEMENT

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This bill would establish a commission, in but not of the Department of State, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission. The commission would be charged with designing and overseeing the construction of a memorial for the purposes of honoring and recognizing the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

The commission would consist of nine public members who are residents of the State and representative of frontline healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the Senate President, and the Governor will each appoint three public members of the commission.

The commission would be responsible for selecting a suitable design and suitable location for the memorial, and for determining appropriate methods of financing its construction and maintenance. Following the selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission would be responsible for overseeing the construction of the memorial.

The bill would also create a permanent COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund in the Department of Treasury. This fund would be the repository for any donations or appropriations provided for the design, construction, and maintenance of the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 144**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 144.

This bill would establish a commission in, but not of, the Department of State, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission. The commission would be charged with designing and overseeing the construction of a memorial that honors and recognizes the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

The commission would consist of nine public members who are residents of the State and representative of frontline healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the Senate President, and the Governor will each appoint three public members of the commission.

The commission would be responsible for selecting a suitable design and suitable location for the memorial, and for determining appropriate methods of financing its construction and maintenance. Following the selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission would be responsible for overseeing the construction of the memorial.

The bill would also create a permanent COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund in the Department of Treasury. This fund would be the repository for any donations or appropriations provided for the design, construction, and maintenance of the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 144**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator DIEGNAN)

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 14, 2022

These Senate floor amendments require the COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission (commission) to prepare and submit a progress report of its activities to the Governor and Legislature after each meeting. The amendments provide that the committee is to meet at least twice per year, as opposed to regularly. Lastly, the amendments revise the title of the commission and various references to the memorial throughout the bill to clarify that all frontline and healthcare workers are to be honored by the memorial.

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 144**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 17, 2022

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 144 (1R).

As amended, this bill would establish a commission, in but not of the Department of State, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission. The commission would be charged with designing and overseeing the construction of a memorial for the purposes of honoring and recognizing the frontline and healthcare workers who lost their lives in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The commission would consist of nine public members who are residents of the State and representative of frontline and healthcare workers, including frontline and healthcare workers in police and fire departments, as well as individuals with knowledge in erecting monuments and individuals with experience in grant funding or business administration. The Governor is required to appoint three public members to the commission, and is required to also appoint three members upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and three members upon the recommendation of the Senate President.

The commission would be responsible for selecting a suitable design and suitable location for the memorial, and for determining appropriate methods of financing its construction and maintenance. Following the selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission would be responsible for overseeing the construction of the memorial.

The bill would also create a permanent COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund in the Department of Treasury. This fund would be the repository for any donations or appropriations provided for the design, construction, and maintenance of the COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2159, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- include updates to the Legislative findings and declarations section in the bill;
- provide that the commission may, subject to available funding, hire staff as needed to effectuate the purposes of this bill
- provide that the Governor shall appoint all nine members of the commission, with the Speaker of the General Assembly providing recommendations for three members and the President of the Senate providing recommendations for three members;
- make various technical changes throughout the bill.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2159

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOSEPH V. EGAN**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2022)



1 AN ACT establishing the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker  
2 Memorial Commission.”

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the coronavirus  
8 disease 2019 pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on the global  
9 community, the country, and this State. This global pandemic has  
10 claimed over a million lives worldwide, including many lives of  
11 frontline healthcare workers that have displayed tremendous  
12 courage and dedication in their efforts to treat patients affected by  
13 the coronavirus disease 2019. Many of these healthcare workers,  
14 from all different healthcare fields including those working in  
15 police and fire departments, rose above their usual scope of duties  
16 to combat the surging cases of coronavirus disease 2019, often with  
17 limited healthcare resources. As one of the early epicenters of the  
18 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, it is important for this State to  
19 memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and recognize  
20 the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

21 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting proper and  
22 fitting to establish a commission to be known as the COVID-19  
23 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission to design and  
24 oversee the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline  
25 healthcare workers that have lost their lives treating patients during  
26 the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

27

28 2. a. There is established, in but not of the Department of  
29 State, a commission known as the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare  
30 Worker Memorial Commission,” for the purposes of honoring and  
31 recognizing the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in  
32 the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

33 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who  
34 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline  
35 healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police  
36 and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the  
37 Senate President, and the Governor shall each appoint three public  
38 members of the commission.

39 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be  
40 filled in the same manner as the original appointments are made.

41 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
42 compensation.

43 e. The commission shall organize as soon as may be  
44 practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members and  
45 shall elect from among its members a chairperson. The presence of  
46 five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

1 f. The commission will meet regularly as the commission  
2 determines, or at the call of the chairperson or a majority of  
3 commission's membership.

4 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.  
5 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings  
6 shall be posted on the State's website.

7 h. The commission also may request the assistance and services  
8 of the employees of any State, county or municipal department,  
9 board, bureau, commission, task force or agency as it may require  
10 and as may be available to it for its purposes.

11  
12 3. a. The commission shall select a suitable design and location  
13 for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline  
14 healthcare workers that lost their lives in the coronavirus disease  
15 2019 pandemic and shall determine appropriate methods of  
16 financing the construction and maintenance of the memorial.  
17 Following the selection of a design and specific location for the  
18 memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission  
19 shall oversee the construction of the memorial.

20 b. The commission may initiate fund raising measures and may  
21 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and  
22 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the  
23 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund  
24 established by section 4 of this act. Not later than 18 months  
25 following the effective date of this act, the commission shall  
26 prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant  
27 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a final report, which  
28 shall include the final design selected for the memorial, the exact  
29 location selected for the memorial, and the amount of funding  
30 necessary for construction and maintenance of the memorial.

31  
32 4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a  
33 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "COVID-19 Frontline  
34 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund." The fund shall be credited  
35 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare  
36 Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to subsection  
37 b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may thereafter be  
38 donated or appropriated to the fund. All interest earned on  
39 moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The moneys in the  
40 fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer and held in the  
41 fund until appropriated by law. No later than one year, following  
42 the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the State  
43 Treasurer shall certify to the Legislature and the Commissioner of  
44 Environmental Protection the total amount of moneys in the fund.

45  
46 5. The act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the  
47 first day of the sixth month following the completion of the  
48 memorial, except for section 4, which shall remain in effect.

STATEMENT

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This bill would establish a commission, in but not of the Department of State, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission. The commission would be charged with designing and overseeing the construction of a memorial for the purposes of honoring and recognizing the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

The commission would consist of nine public members who are residents of the State and representative of frontline healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the Senate President, and the Governor will each appoint three public members of the commission.

The commission would be responsible for selecting a suitable design and suitable location for the memorial, and for determining appropriate methods of financing its construction and maintenance. Following the selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission would be responsible for overseeing the construction of the memorial.

The bill would also create a permanent COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund in the Department of Treasury. This fund would be the repository for any donations or appropriations provided for the design, construction, and maintenance of the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial.

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2159**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 17, 2022

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2159.

As amended, this bill would establish a commission, in but not of the Department of State, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission. The commission would be charged with designing and overseeing the construction of a memorial for the purposes of honoring and recognizing the frontline and healthcare workers who lost their lives in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The commission would consist of nine public members who are residents of the State and representative of frontline and healthcare workers, including frontline and healthcare workers in police and fire departments, as well as individuals with knowledge in erecting monuments and individuals with experience in grant funding or business administration. The Governor is required to appoint three public members to the commission, and is required to also appoint three members upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and three members upon the recommendation of the Senate President.

The commission would be responsible for selecting a suitable design and suitable location for the memorial, and for determining appropriate methods of financing its construction and maintenance. Following the selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission would be responsible for overseeing the construction of the memorial.

The bill would also create a permanent COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund in the Department of Treasury. This fund would be the repository for any donations or appropriations provided for the design, construction, and maintenance of the COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 144(1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- include updates to the Legislative findings and declarations section in the bill;
- revise the title of the commission to the “COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission (the commission) and various references to the memorial throughout the bill to clarify that all frontline and healthcare workers are to be honored by the memorial;
- provide that the commission may, subject to available funding, hire staff as needed to effectuate the purposes of this bill provide that the committee is to meet at least twice per year as opposed to regularly;
- provide that the Governor shall appoint all nine members of the commission, with the Speaker of the General Assembly providing recommendations for three members and the President of the Senate providing recommendations for three members;
- make various technical changes throughout the bill.

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

07/29/2022

**TRENTON** – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

**S-144/A-2159 (Diegnan, Beach/Egan, Danielsen, Park)** - Establishes “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission.”

**S-1177/A-4032 (Lagana, Gopal/Coughlin)** - Revises out-of-network arbitration process

**S-2677/A-4068 (Pou/Wimberly, Sumter, Reynolds-Jackson)** - Amends requirements for certain mixed use parking projects undertaken by municipal redevelopers under Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant program; increases total available tax credits by \$25 million

**A-1797/S-1906 (DeAngelo, Dancer, Dunn/Diegnan, Greenstein)** - Clarifies that member of SPRS may receive accidental disability benefit under certain circumstances.

**A3110/S2049 (Jasey, Benson, Reynolds-Jackson/Codey, Schepisi)** - Establishes minimum Medicaid reimbursement rates for brain injury services.

**A-3898/S-2522 (Pintor Marin, Space/Ruiz)** - Makes FY2022 supplemental appropriation of \$3 million for mosquito control.

**A-4193/S-2759 (Greenwald/Singleton)** - Adjusts municipal ballot question for amusement games for future elections and repeals section of law creating office of Amusement Games Control Commissioner