

40:23-6.22

July 23, 1969

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Legislative Notes on R.S. 40:23-6.22  
(Museums - 1st class counties may support)

On February 10, 1969, the Newark City Council announced that the Newark Public Library and Newark Museum would close April 1st because of lack of funds. The subsequent storm of publicity led directly to this legislation. (See newspaper articles listed below.)

- 2/11/69 "Library, Museum Threat - Council Threatens Library, Museum" - The Newark Evening News.
- 2/12/69 "Jersey moves to take charge of library, museum" - Sunday Star Ledger,
- 2/12/69 "Library, Museum Budgets High Due to Cost of People" - The Newark Evening News.
- 2/18/69 "Recall election threatened if library, museum close" -
- 2/20/69 "Council gets an earful on library, museum decision" - The Star - Ledger.
- 2/24/69 A Matter of Opinion - "Concerned Citizenry" - The Star - Ledger.
- 2/25/69 "Del Tufo starts hunting funds for library, museum" - The Star - Ledger.
- 3/5/69 "State Can't Aid Library, Museum, Governor says" - The Newark Evening News.
- 3/7/69 "Wants to check Newark's Books - Hughes ties a string to library aid" - The Star - Ledger.
- 3/9/69 "Museum, Library - Hughes would aid" - The Newark Evening News.
- 3/9/69 "Bigger Than Newark" - Record.
- 3/11/69 "Seek Library, Museum Funds - Newarkers besedge Hughes' Office" - The Star - Ledger.
- 3/11/69 "Newark Council rules today on library, museum" - The Star - Ledger.

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- Copy 2*
- 3/12/69 "Funds Voted For Library" - The Newark Evening News.
- 3/12/69 "Council reverses fund cut; saves library and museum" -  
The Star - Ledger.
- 3/13/69 "After the 'Crisis'" - The Newark Evening News.
- 3/13/69 "Newark's Museum And Library" - The Trenton Evening Times.
- 3/16/69 A Matter of Opinion - "An open book" - Sunday Star - Ledger.
- 3/17/69 "Newark Saves Us - This Time" - Record.

L. 1969, Chapter 34 - A648

Introduced March 17, 1969 by Dennis and others.

There was a statement made during passage. (Copy enclosed.)

Not amended during passage.

No recent hearings or reports were found on this subject.

JH/EB

APPROVED 5/7/69  
ASSEMBLY, No. 648

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 1969

By Assemblymen DENNIS, WILSON, FIORE, KALTENBACHER,  
KEAN, CAPUTO, DODD and OWENS

Referred to Committee on County and Municipal Government

AN ACT to amend "An act authorizing certain counties and municipalities to provide museum facilities and services," approved May 14, 1956 (P. L. 1956, c. 34).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1956, chapter 34 (C. 40:23-6.22) is amended  
2 to read as follows:3 1. The board of chosen freeholders of any county, [other than  
4 a county of the first class,] or the governing body of any municipality may provide by contract, and appropriate funds for the  
5 support and maintenance of existing museum facilities and services for the educational or recreational use and benefit of the public.6 Such museum facilities and services may include exhibition in  
7 a museum building or elsewhere of subjects of natural, historical,  
8 educational, scientific, industrial or cultural nature; operation of  
9 arts, crafts and other hobby workshops; conduct of field trips and  
10 other projects of an educational or recreational nature and provision for the personal services required in connection with any  
11 of the foregoing.  
12  
13  
14

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

This bill removes the exception of first class counties from the authorization given by P. L. 1956, chapter 34 allowing counties to support existing museums. It will permit the counties of Essex, Bergen and Hudson to contribute to the support of existing museums such as the Newark museum and thereby help to insure the survival of one of the most important cultural assets in the State and one which is particularly enriching to the lives of the residents of these three large counties.

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

FROM: Office of the Governor

For Immediate Release:  
May 12, 1969

Governor Richard J. Hughes has signed into law the following bills:

Senate Bill No. 440 - which authorizes the Borough of Manasquan in Monmouth County to make permanent the appointment of Jack G. Malone to the police department.

Senate Bill No. 654 - which appropriates \$88,650 to the Public Employees' Relations Commission.

Assembly Bill No. 27 - which makes a technical correction to Chapter 211 of the Laws of 1968.

Assembly Bill No. 648 - which authorizes first class counties to appropriate funds to support existing museums within the county.

Assembly Bill No. 775 - which provides for the printing of public questions on sample ballots in black ink (instead of red ink as now required).

Assembly Bill No. 803 - which extends the Emergency Transportation Tax until 1980.

Assembly Bill No. 975 - which extended the filing deadline for the 1969 primary election and provides for reimbursement of county and municipal expenses caused by the change.

In connection with his signing of Assembly Bill No. 648, the Governor issued the following statement:

5.40: I am pleased to announce that today I signed into law Assembly  
p 34 Bill No. 648 which allows first class counties to appropriate funds to support existing museums located within the county. All other counties previously had this power, which is hereby extended to the counties of Essex, Bergen, and Hudson. This bill will, in particular, provide an additional possible source of revenue for continued operation of the Newark Museum, which was in danger of being closed by the City of Newark for lack of funds earlier this year.

I wish to point out, however, that this Bill does not authorize or appropriate any State aid to institutions such as the Newark Museum. The Newark Museum attracted over 170,000 visitors last year alone, more than two-thirds of whom were not residents of Newark. The City of Newark and the County of Essex--both of which are already hard pressed to meet the urgent demands of a large urban area--can hardly be expected to assume alone, without State help, the expenses associated with the operation of the Newark Museum. Fairness dictates that the taxpayers of Newark and Essex County should not have sole responsibility for a full-rate museum which serves an entire metropolitan area. I, therefore, urge the Legislature to take favorable action on Assembly Bill No. 640, which would appropriate \$200,000.00 to the Department of Education for aid to the Newark Museum. Hopefully, the Legislature will find more permanent solutions to the financial problems of our urban areas.

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