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	SENATE: No

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FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
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VETO MESSAGE:	No
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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
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LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	Yes
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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
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HEARINGS:	No
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes
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Jeanine Cava, 'N.J. must unite to expand and protect urban agriculture | Opinion - The bill would also not interfere with municipal home rule, but empowers cities to acquire and preserve land for urban agriculture through their existing Open Space Trusts.', *Star-Ledger, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 3 Aug 2025<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A23F350C034B048>>

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 119, *approved August 4, 2025*
Senate, No. 4567

1 **AN ACT** appropriating \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
2 dedicated corporation business tax revenues and various Green
3 Acres funds to assist local government units to acquire, develop,
4 and conduct planning activities related to, lands for recreation
5 and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative
6 expenses.

7
8 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
9 *of New Jersey:*

10
11 1. As used in this act:

12 “Constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues”
13 means corporation business tax revenues dedicated pursuant to
14 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the
15 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” for the acquisition or
16 development of lands by local government units for recreation and
17 conservation purposes in accordance with the provisions of
18 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

19 “Densely or highly populated municipality” means a
20 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
21 square mile, or a population of at least 35,000 persons, according to
22 the latest federal decennial census.

23 “Densely populated county” means a county with a population
24 density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile according to the
25 latest federal decennial census.

26 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the
27 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152
28 (C.13:8C-19).

29 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,
30 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,
31 and P.L.1983, c.354.

32 “Highly populated county” means a county with a population
33 density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile according to the
34 latest federal decennial census.

35 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund
36 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”
37 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

38 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in
39 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
40 (C.13:8C-45).

41
42 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
43 Protection the following sums for the purpose of providing grants or
44 loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire lands for

1 recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to section 4 of this
2 act and for the purpose of providing grants or loans, or both, to
3 assist local government units to develop lands for recreation and
4 conservation purposes pursuant to section 5 of this act:

5 a. \$52,679,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation
6 business tax revenues. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this
7 subsection, the sum of \$8,352,000 is available due to interest
8 earnings on the constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax
9 revenues;

10 b. \$13,000,000 from the “Garden State Green Acres
11 Preservation Trust Fund” and any Green Acres fund established
12 pursuant to a Green Acres bond act, made available due to loan
13 repayments and interest earnings; and

14 c. \$40,000,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres
15 Fund,” the “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,”
16 and any Green Acres fund established pursuant to a Green Acres
17 bond act, made available due to project cancellations and
18 withdrawals.

19

20 3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
21 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” the sum of \$54,999,000
22 to implement the provisions of this act.

23 b. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this
24 section, the sum of \$2,320,000 is appropriated from the “Preserve
25 New Jersey Green Acres Fund” to the Department of Environmental
26 Protection for the purposes of paying administrative costs
27 associated with administering the applicable provisions of
28 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

29

30 4. a. The following planning incentive acquisition projects to
31 acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible
32 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
33 this act:

34

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Burlington County	Burlington	Planning Incentive	\$150,000
Cherry Hill Twp	Camden	Planning Incentive Grant	\$1,025,000
Clementon Boro	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$342,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Livingston Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$362,000
Verona Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000

West Orange Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,500,000
Gloucester County	Gloucester	Open Space Plan	\$2,000,000
Readington Twp	Hunterdon	Greenway Incentive Plan	\$1,000,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$825,000
West Windsor Twp	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$1,000,000
Monmouth County	Monmouth	Planning Incentive Acquisition	\$2,500,000
Millstone Twp	Monmouth	Planning Incentive	\$484,000
Denville Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$700,000
Madison Boro	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Mendham Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$546,000
Point Pleasant Beach Boro	Ocean	Open Space & Recreation Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Somerset County	Somerset	County Open Space Acquisition	\$295,000
Montgomery Twp	Somerset	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Warren County	Warren	Open Space Plan	\$665,000
Knowlton Twp	Warren	Open Space Acquisition	\$565,000
Total			\$19,959,000

b. The following projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Bloomfield Twp	Essex	Third River Park and Preserve	\$2,000,000
Neptune Twp	Monmouth	Division Street Park Acquisition	\$86,000
Total			\$2,086,000

c. The following site-specific incentive acquisition projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp	Morris	Kosut Tract Acquisition	\$382,000
Total			\$382,000
Grand Total, Acquisition			\$22,427,000

1
2 5. a. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and
3 conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive
4 State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either
5 as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by
6 densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the
7 moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:
8

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Atlantic City	Atlantic	Dolphin Field Improvements	\$1,330,000
Bergenfield Boro	Bergen	Twin Boro Park Improvements Project – Phase 3	\$673,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Columbus Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Hackensack City	Bergen	Foschini Park Improvements	\$1,152,000
Pennsauken Twp	Camden	Stockton Park Improvements	\$770,000
Vineland City	Cumberland	Romano Complex Improvements	\$1,313,000
Essex County	Essex	Irvington Park Improvements	\$1,916,000
Belleville Twp	Essex	Municipal Stadium Grandstand Improvements	\$680,000
East Orange City	Essex	Oval Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Montclair Twp	Essex	Mountainside Park Improvements	\$1,867,000
Monroe Twp	Gloucester	Amphitheater at Owens Memorial Park	\$1,302,000
Hudson County	Hudson	James J. Braddock Park Nature Trail	\$2,099,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Veterans Park Shoreline Restoration & Resiliency	\$605,000

Hoboken City	Hudson	800 Monroe Resiliency Park Project	\$500,000
Union City	Hudson	Ellsworth Park Improvements	\$1,400,000
Weehawken Twp	Hudson	Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion II	\$2,000,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Assunpink Greenway Park Development	\$2,000,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Veteran Memorial Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Brick Twp	Ocean	Windward Beach Playground Rehabilitation	\$405,000
Passaic City	Passaic	Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park Improvements	\$985,000
Salem City	Salem	Salem City Pool Recreational Area	\$573,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Wheeler Spray Park	\$1,575,000
Total			\$29,145,000

1
2 b. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and
3 conservation purposes, located in densely or highly populated
4 municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties, are
5 eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to
6 section 2 of this act:
7

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Egg Harbor Twp	Atlantic	Veteran's Memorial Park Improvements – Phase I	\$139,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Riverside County Park South	\$2,500,000
New Milford Boro	Bergen	Williams Field Lighting	\$148,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Argonne Park Restroom & Splash Pad Improvements	\$375,000
West Caldwell Twp	Essex	Grover Cleveland Field Improvements	\$1,500,000
Edison Twp	Middlesex	Angels Field Improvement Project	\$1,050,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Field House	\$832,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Improvements	\$975,000

Keyport Boro	Monmouth	Fireman's Park Improvements	\$872,000
Dover Town	Morris	Waterworks Splash Water Park	\$400,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Deer Hollow Park Improvements	\$707,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Peckman Preserve Improvements	\$2,018,000
North Plainfield Boro	Somerset	Green Acres Park Inclusive Playground	\$435,000
Total			\$11,951,000

c. The following standard park development projects are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Hamilton Twp	Atlantic	Liepe Recreation Complex	\$1,000,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	Bike Path Improvements	\$342,000
Burlington City	Burlington	6th Street Park Improvements	\$955,000
Burlington Twp	Burlington	Amenity Expansions at Green Acres II	\$1,000,000
Greenwich Twp	Gloucester	Memorial Park Improvements	\$1,000,000
Woolwich Twp	Gloucester	Locke Ave Park Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Little Falls Twp	Passaic	Amity Field Park Improvements	\$84,000
Carneys Point Twp	Salem	Recreation Complex Improvements	\$511,000
Alpha Boro	Warren	Walking Trail Phase 1	\$746,000
Total			\$6,638,000

d. The following projects for stewardship activities are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
West Orange Twp	Essex	Vincent's Pond Improvements	\$906,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Lake Restoration and Enhancement	\$105,000
Middlesex Boro	Middlesex	Victor Crowell Park Stewardship Improvements	\$76,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Lambert Castle Historic Landscape Restoration II	\$2,500,000
Somerset County	Somerset	Green Knoll Golf Course Hydro-raking	\$174,000
Union County	Union	Deserted Village Improvements	\$191,000
Linden City	Union	Wilson Pond Restoration	\$295,000
Total			\$4,247,000

1
2 e. The following projects for completely inclusive
3 playgrounds, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-
4 27.1), are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated
5 pursuant to section 2 of this act:
6

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Brigantine City	Atlantic	East Shore Drive Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Hammonton Town	Atlantic	Jake's Law Playground at Hammonton Lake Park	\$745,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	JFK Park Inclusive Playground	\$423,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Pascack Brook County Park CIP	\$1,000,000
East Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Anthony Gallo Park	\$544,000
Fort Lee Boro	Bergen	Constitution Park Playground Improvements Project	\$693,000
Franklin Lakes Boro	Bergen	Pulis Avenue Jake's Law Playground	\$750,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Garden Court East Park Project	\$496,000
Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Tamblyn Together	\$536,000

Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Votee Park Inclusive Playground Improvements	\$750,000
Maple Shade Twp	Burlington	Improvements to Buttonwood Park	\$750,000
Moorestown Twp	Burlington	Full Throttle IP at Wesley Bishop Park	\$750,000
Camden County	Camden	New Camden Park Playground	\$883,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Jake's Law Playground Valleybrook Complex	\$750,000
Lower Twp	Cape May	Jake's Law Playground at Rotary Park	\$750,000
Stone Harbor Boro	Cape May	82nd St. Jakes Law Playground	\$750,000
Nutley Twp	Essex	Father Glotzbach Park Inclusive Playground	\$403,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Colgate Park Playground	\$503,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Improvements to North Street Park	\$534,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	Tom Olivieri Park Improvement Project	\$750,000
Secaucus Town	Hudson	Schmidt's Woods Park Inclusive Playground	\$630,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Park Inclusive Playground	\$938,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Inclusive Playground at Franklin Park	\$750,000
Carteret Boro	Middlesex	Carteret Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Inclusive Playground	\$642,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Truxton Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
South River Boro	Middlesex	Volunteer Memorial Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Fair Haven Boro	Monmouth	McCarter Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Red Bank Boro	Monmouth	Marine Park Playground Improvement	\$750,000

Spring Lake Boro	Monmouth	Divine Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Beach Haven Boro	Ocean	Together We Play	\$750,000
Lavalette Boro	Ocean	Chandler Park Jake's Law Improvements	\$652,000
Pine Beach Boro	Ocean	Vista Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Clifton Avenue Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Weasel Brook Park Playground Replacement	\$850,000
Pennsville Twp	Salem	Riverview Beach Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Unami Park	\$1,000,000
Linden City	Union	George L. Milkosky Jake's Law Playground	\$590,000
Plainfield City	Union	Hannah Atkins Completely Inclusive Playground	\$459,000
Total			\$28,271,000
Grand Total, Development			\$80,252,000

1
2 6. The department shall utilize \$3 million of the moneys
3 appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act to establish a Planning
4 Grant program, the purpose of which shall be to provide matching
5 grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and
6 other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for
7 additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State.
8 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of
9 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48) or any other law to the contrary, the
10 distribution of grant funds pursuant to this section shall not require
11 the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

12
13 7. a. Any transfer of funds, or change in project sponsor, site,
14 or type, listed in section 4 or 5 of this act shall require the approval
15 of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.
16 b. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects
17 listed in section 4 or 5 of this act are offered funding pursuant
18 thereto, any project of a local government unit that previously
19 received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green
20 Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State
21 Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and
22 conservation purposes, or that receives funding approved pursuant

1 to this act, shall be eligible to receive additional funding, as
2 determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, subject
3 to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its
4 successor.

5
6 8. a. There is reappropriated to the Department of
7 Environmental Protection the unexpended balances, due to project
8 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts
9 appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any
10 annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres
11 Preservation Trust Fund to assist local government units to acquire
12 or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for the
13 purposes of providing:

14 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
15 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
16 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
17 act; and

18 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
19 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
20 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
21 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
22 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
23 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
24 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
25 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
26 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
27 administrative costs.

28 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
29 Protection such sums as may be, or may become, available on or
30 before June 30, 2025, due to interest earnings or loan repayments in
31 any "Green Trust Fund" established pursuant to a Green Acres bond
32 act or in the "Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,"
33 for the purpose of providing:

34 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
35 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
36 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
37 act; and

38 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
39 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
40 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
41 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
42 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
43 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
44 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
45 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
46 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
47 administrative costs.

1 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
7 dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues and various
8 Green Acres funds to the Department of Environmental Protection
9 (DEP). Of the total amount appropriated by the bill, \$102,679,000
10 would be used by the DEP to provide grants or loans, or both, to
11 assist local government units in the State to acquire or develop
12 lands for recreation and conservation purposes, \$3,000,000 would
13 be used for a new planning grant program, and \$2,320,000 would be
14 used for the DEP's associated administrative costs.

15 The total amount of funding allocated for local government
16 projects listed in this bill is \$102,679,000. Of this amount,
17 \$22,427,000 is for projects to acquire lands for recreation and
18 conservation purposes identified in section 4 of the bill, and
19 \$80,252,000 is for projects to develop lands for recreation and
20 conservation purposes identified in section 5 of the bill.

21 Of the sum for projects to acquire lands for recreation and
22 conservation purposes: \$19,959,000 is allocated for planning
23 incentive open space acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in
24 municipalities and counties that have an open space tax and an
25 approved open space plan); \$2,086,000 is allocated for open space
26 acquisition projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by
27 densely populated counties; and \$382,000 is allocated for site-
28 specific incentive acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in
29 municipalities that have an open space tax, but do not have an open
30 space plan).

31 Of the sum for projects to develop lands for recreation and
32 conservation purposes: \$29,145,000 is allocated for local park
33 development projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by
34 densely populated counties; \$11,951,000 is allocated for local park
35 development projects in densely or highly populated municipalities
36 or sponsored by highly populated counties; \$6,638,000 is allocated
37 for standard local park development projects (i.e., projects located
38 in municipalities that do not meet the criteria of the prior two
39 categories); \$4,247,000 is allocated for stewardship activity
40 projects; and \$28,271,000 is allocated for completely inclusive
41 playground projects, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104
42 (C.13:8C-27.1), otherwise known as "Jake's Law."

43 The projects approved by the bill include projects in "urban aid"
44 and densely or highly populated municipalities and counties. The
45 bill defines a "densely or highly populated municipality" as a
46 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
47 square mile or a population of at least 35,000 persons; a "densely
48 populated county" as a county with a population density of at least

1 5,000 persons per square mile; and a “highly populated county” as a
2 county with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per
3 square mile.

4 In addition, the bill would appropriate \$3 million to the DEP in
5 order to establish a new a Planning Grant program, the purpose of
6 which would be to provide matching grants to local governments to
7 fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to
8 identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and
9 conservation initiatives in the State.

10 To the extent that there are funds remaining after the local
11 government unit projects listed in this bill are offered funding, the
12 bill also authorizes the DEP, with the approval of the JBOC, to use
13 those funds to provide additional funding for local government unit
14 projects listed in this bill as well as for local government unit
15 projects previously approved for funding pursuant to various other
16 laws. The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP
17 and the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT).

18

19

20

21

22 Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT
23 revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local
24 government open space acquisition, park development, and
25 planning projects, and for certain administrative expenses.

CHAPTER 119

AN ACT appropriating \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues and various Green Acres funds to assist local government units to acquire, develop, and conduct planning activities related to, lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative expenses.

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

1. As used in this act:

“Constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues” means corporation business tax revenues dedicated pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” for the acquisition or development of lands by local government units for recreation and conservation purposes in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

“Densely or highly populated municipality” means a municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile, or a population of at least 35,000 persons, according to the latest federal decennial census.

“Densely populated county” means a county with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile according to the latest federal decennial census.

“Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-19).

“Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119, P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265, and P.L.1983, c.354.

“Highly populated county” means a county with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile according to the latest federal decennial census.

“Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

“Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-45).

2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection the following sums for the purpose of providing grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to section 4 of this act and for the purpose of providing grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to section 5 of this act:

a. \$52,679,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this subsection, the sum of \$8,352,000 is available due to interest earnings on the constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues;

b. \$13,000,000 from the “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” and any Green Acres fund established pursuant to a Green Acres bond act, made available due to loan repayments and interest earnings; and

c. \$40,000,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” the “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,” and any Green Acres fund established pursuant to a Green Acres bond act, made available due to project cancellations and withdrawals.

3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” the sum of \$54,999,000 to implement the provisions of this act.

b. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the sum of \$2,320,000 is appropriated from the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” to the

Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes of paying administrative costs associated with administering the applicable provisions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

4. a. The following planning incentive acquisition projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Burlington County	Burlington	Planning Incentive	\$150,000
Cherry Hill Twp	Camden	Planning Incentive Grant	\$1,025,000
Clementon Boro	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$342,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Livingston Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$362,000
Verona Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,500,000
Gloucester County	Gloucester	Open Space Plan	\$2,000,000
Readington Twp	Hunterdon	Greenway Incentive Plan	\$1,000,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$825,000
West Windsor Twp	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$1,000,000
Monmouth County	Monmouth	Planning Incentive Acquisition	\$2,500,000
Millstone Twp	Monmouth	Planning Incentive	\$484,000
Denville Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$700,000
Madison Boro	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Mendham Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$546,000
Point Pleasant Beach Boro	Ocean	Open Space & Recreation Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Somerset County	Somerset	County Open Space Acquisition	\$295,000
Montgomery Twp	Somerset	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Warren County	Warren	Open Space Plan	\$665,000
Knowlton Twp	Warren	Open Space Acquisition	\$565,000
Total			\$19,959,000

b. The following projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Bloomfield Twp	Essex	Third River Park and Preserve	\$2,000,000
Neptune Twp	Monmouth	Division Street Park Acquisition	\$86,000
Total			\$2,086,000

c. The following site-specific incentive acquisition projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp	Morris	Kosut Tract Acquisition	\$382,000
Total			\$382,000
Grand Total, Acquisition			\$22,427,000

5. a. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-

178 et seq.) either as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Atlantic City	Atlantic	Dolphin Field Improvements	\$1,330,000
Bergenfield Boro	Bergen	Twin Boro Park Improvements Project – Phase 3	\$673,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Columbus Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Hackensack City	Bergen	Foschini Park Improvements	\$1,152,000
Pennsauken Twp	Camden	Stockton Park Improvements	\$770,000
Vineland City	Cumberland	Romano Complex Improvements	\$1,313,000
Essex County	Essex	Irvington Park Improvements	\$1,916,000
Belleville Twp	Essex	Municipal Stadium Grandstand Improvements	\$680,000
East Orange City	Essex	Oval Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Montclair Twp	Essex	Mountainside Park Improvements	\$1,867,000
Monroe Twp	Gloucester	Amphitheater at Owens Memorial Park	\$1,302,000
Hudson County	Hudson	James J. Braddock Park Nature Trail	\$2,099,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Veterans Park Shoreline Restoration & Resiliency	\$605,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	800 Monroe Resiliency Park Project	\$500,000
Union City	Hudson	Ellsworth Park Improvements	\$1,400,000
Weehawken Twp	Hudson	Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion II	\$2,000,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Assunpink Greenway Park Development	\$2,000,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Veteran Memorial Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Brick Twp	Ocean	Windward Beach Playground Rehabilitation	\$405,000
Passaic City	Passaic	Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park Improvements	\$985,000
Salem City	Salem	Salem City Pool Recreational Area	\$573,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Wheeler Spray Park	\$1,575,000
Total			\$29,145,000

b. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in densely or highly populated municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Egg Harbor Twp	Atlantic	Veteran's Memorial Park Improvements – Phase I	\$139,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Riverside County Park South	\$2,500,000
New Milford Boro	Bergen	Williams Field Lighting	\$148,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Argonne Park Restroom & Splash Pad Improvements	\$375,000
West Caldwell Twp	Essex	Grover Cleveland Field Improvements	\$1,500,000
Edison Twp	Middlesex	Angels Field Improvement Project	\$1,050,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Field House	\$832,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Improvements	\$975,000
Keyport Boro	Monmouth	Fireman's Park Improvements	\$872,000
Dover Town	Morris	Waterworks Splash Water Park	\$400,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Deer Hollow Park Improvements	\$707,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Peckman Preserve Improvements	\$2,018,000
North Plainfield Boro	Somerset	Green Acres Park Inclusive Playground	\$435,000
Total			\$11,951,000

c. The following standard park development projects are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Hamilton Twp	Atlantic	Liepe Recreation Complex	\$1,000,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	Bike Path Improvements	\$342,000
Burlington City	Burlington	6th Street Park Improvements	\$955,000
Burlington Twp	Burlington	Amenity Expansions at Green Acres II	\$1,000,000
Greenwich Twp	Gloucester	Memorial Park Improvements	\$1,000,000
Woolwich Twp	Gloucester	Locke Ave Park Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Little Falls Twp	Passaic	Amity Field Park Improvements	\$84,000
Carneys Point Twp	Salem	Recreation Complex Improvements	\$511,000
Alpha Boro	Warren	Walking Trail Phase 1	\$746,000
Total			\$6,638,000

d. The following projects for stewardship activities are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
West Orange Twp	Essex	Vincent's Pond Improvements	\$906,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Lake Restoration and Enhancement	\$105,000
Middlesex Boro	Middlesex	Victor Crowell Park Stewardship Improvements	\$76,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Lambert Castle Historic Landscape Restoration II	\$2,500,000
Somerset County	Somerset	Green Knoll Golf Course Hydro-raking	\$174,000
Union County	Union	Deserted Village Improvements	\$191,000
Linden City	Union	Wilson Pond Restoration	\$295,000
Total			\$4,247,000

e. The following projects for completely inclusive playgrounds, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-27.1), are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Brigantine City	Atlantic	East Shore Drive Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Hammonton Town	Atlantic	Jake's Law Playground at Hammonton Lake Park	\$745,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	JFK Park Inclusive Playground	\$423,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Pascack Brook County Park CIP	\$1,000,000
East Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Anthony Gallo Park	\$544,000
Fort Lee Boro	Bergen	Constitution Park Playground Improvements Project	\$693,000
Franklin Lakes Boro	Bergen	Pulis Avenue Jake's Law Playground	\$750,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Garden Court East Park Project	\$496,000
Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Tamblyn Together	\$536,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Votee Park Inclusive Playground Improvements	\$750,000
Maple Shade Twp	Burlington	Improvements to Buttonwood Park	\$750,000
Moorestown Twp	Burlington	Full Throttle IP at Wesley Bishop Park	\$750,000
Camden County	Camden	New Camden Park Playground	\$883,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Jake's Law Playground Valleybrook Complex	\$750,000

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 119
5

Lower Twp	Cape May	Jake's Law Playground at Rotary Park	\$750,000
Stone Harbor Boro	Cape May	82nd St. Jakes Law Playground	\$750,000
Nutley Twp	Essex	Father Glotzbach Park Inclusive Playground	\$403,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Colgate Park Playground	\$503,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Improvements to North Street Park	\$534,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	Tom Olivieri Park Improvement Project	\$750,000
Secaucus Town	Hudson	Schmidt's Woods Park Inclusive Playground	\$630,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Park Inclusive Playground	\$938,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Inclusive Playground at Franklin Park	\$750,000
Carteret Boro	Middlesex	Carteret Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Inclusive Playground	\$642,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Truxton Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
South River Boro	Middlesex	Volunteer Memorial Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Fair Haven Boro	Monmouth	McCarter Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Red Bank Boro	Monmouth	Marine Park Playground Improvement	\$750,000
Spring Lake Boro	Monmouth	Divine Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Beach Haven Boro	Ocean	Together We Play	\$750,000
Lavalette Boro	Ocean	Chandler Park Jake's Law Improvements	\$652,000
Pine Beach Boro	Ocean	Vista Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Clifton Avenue Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Weasel Brook Park Playground Replacement	\$850,000
Pennsville Twp	Salem	Riverview Beach Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Unami Park	\$1,000,000
Linden City	Union	George L. Milkosky Jake's Law Playground	\$590,000
Plainfield City	Union	Hannah Atkins Completely Inclusive Playground	\$459,000
Total			\$28,271,000
Grand Total, Development			\$80,252,000

6. The department shall utilize \$3 million of the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act to establish a Planning Grant program, the purpose of which shall be to provide matching grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48) or any other law to the contrary, the distribution of grant funds pursuant to this section shall not require the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

7. a. Any transfer of funds, or change in project sponsor, site, or type, listed in section 4 or 5 of this act shall require the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

b. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects listed in section 4 or 5 of this act are offered funding pursuant thereto, any project of a local government unit that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes, or that receives funding approved pursuant to this act, shall be eligible to receive additional funding, as determined by the Department of

Environmental Protection, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

8. a. There is reappropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection the unexpended balances, due to project withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund to assist local government units to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for the purposes of providing:

(1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this act; and

(2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include administrative costs.

b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection such sums as may be, or may become, available on or before June 30, 2025, due to interest earnings or loan repayments in any "Green Trust Fund" established pursuant to a Green Acres bond act or in the "Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund," for the purpose of providing:

(1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this act; and

(2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include administrative costs.

9. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 4, 2025.

SENATE, No. 4567

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Assemblyman BALVIR SINGH

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

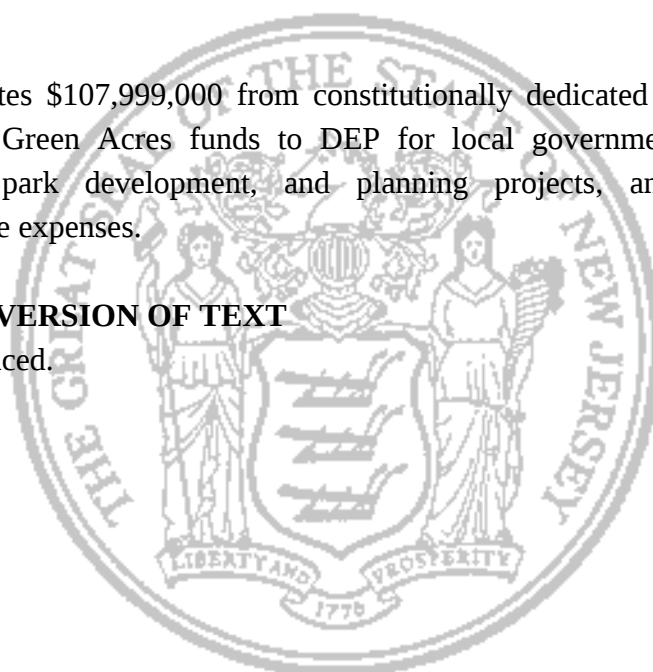
Senators Amato, Tiver, Henry, Space, Burgess, Ruiz, Assemblywomen Donlon, Murphy, Peterpaul, Assemblyman Freiman and Assemblywoman Drulis

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects, and for certain administrative expenses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT appropriating \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
2 dedicated corporation business tax revenues and various Green
3 Acres funds to assist local government units to acquire, develop,
4 and conduct planning activities related to, lands for recreation
5 and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative
6 expenses.

7
8 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
9 of New Jersey:

10
11 1. As used in this act:

12 “Constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues”
13 means corporation business tax revenues dedicated pursuant to
14 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the
15 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” for the acquisition or
16 development of lands by local government units for recreation and
17 conservation purposes in accordance with the provisions of
18 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

19 “Densely or highly populated municipality” means a
20 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
21 square mile, or a population of at least 35,000 persons, according to
22 the latest federal decennial census.

23 “Densely populated county” means a county with a population
24 density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile according to the
25 latest federal decennial census.

26 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the
27 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152
28 (C.13:8C-19).

29 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,
30 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,
31 and P.L.1983, c.354.

32 “Highly populated county” means a county with a population
33 density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile according to the
34 latest federal decennial census.

35 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund
36 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”
37 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

38 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in
39 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
40 (C.13:8C-45).

41
42 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
43 Protection the following sums for the purpose of providing grants or
44 loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire lands for
45 recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to section 4 of this
46 act and for the purpose of providing grants or loans, or both, to
47 assist local government units to develop lands for recreation and
48 conservation purposes pursuant to section 5 of this act:

- 1 a. \$52,679,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation
2 business tax revenues. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this
3 subsection, the sum of \$8,352,000 is available due to interest
4 earnings on the constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax
5 revenues;
- 6 b. \$13,000,000 from the “Garden State Green Acres
7 Preservation Trust Fund” and any Green Acres fund established
8 pursuant to a Green Acres bond act, made available due to loan
9 repayments and interest earnings; and
- 10 c. \$40,000,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres
11 Fund,” the “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,”
12 and any Green Acres fund established pursuant to a Green Acres
13 bond act, made available due to project cancellations and
14 withdrawals.
- 15
- 16 3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
17 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” the sum of \$54,999,000
18 to implement the provisions of this act.
- 19 b. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this
20 section, the sum of \$2,320,000 is appropriated from the “Preserve
21 New Jersey Green Acres Fund” to the Department of Environmental
22 Protection for the purposes of paying administrative costs
23 associated with administering the applicable provisions of
24 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).
- 25
- 26 4. a. The following planning incentive acquisition projects to
27 acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible
28 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
29 this act:
- 30

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Burlington County	Burlington	Planning Incentive	\$150,000
Cherry Hill Twp	Camden	Planning Incentive Grant	\$1,025,000
Clementon Boro	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$342,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Livingston Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$362,000
Verona Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,500,000
Gloucester County	Gloucester	Open Space Plan	\$2,000,000

Readington Twp	Hunterdon	Greenway Incentive Plan	\$1,000,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$825,000
West Windsor Twp	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$1,000,000
Monmouth County	Monmouth	Planning Incentive Acquisition	\$2,500,000
Millstone Twp	Monmouth	Planning Incentive	\$484,000
Denville Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$700,000
Madison Boro	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Mendham Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$546,000
Point Pleasant Beach Boro	Ocean	Open Space & Recreation Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Somerset County	Somerset	County Open Space Acquisition	\$295,000
Montgomery Twp	Somerset	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Warren County	Warren	Open Space Plan	\$665,000
Knowlton Twp	Warren	Open Space Acquisition	\$565,000
Total			\$19,959,000

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b. The following projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Bloomfield Twp	Essex	Third River Park and Preserve	\$2,000,000
Neptune Twp	Monmouth	Division Street Park Acquisition	\$86,000
Total			\$2,086,000

9

c. The following site-specific incentive acquisition projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

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13

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp	Morris	Kosut Tract Acquisition	\$382,000
Total			\$382,000
Grand Total, Acquisition			\$22,427,000

1
2 5. a. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and
3 conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive
4 State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either
5 as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by
6 densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the
7 moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:
8

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Atlantic City	Atlantic	Dolphin Field Improvements	\$1,330,000
Bergenfield Boro	Bergen	Twin Boro Park Improvements Project – Phase 3	\$673,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Columbus Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Hackensack City	Bergen	Foschini Park Improvements	\$1,152,000
Pennsauken Twp	Camden	Stockton Park Improvements	\$770,000
Vineland City	Cumberland	Romano Complex Improvements	\$1,313,000
Essex County	Essex	Irvington Park Improvements	\$1,916,000
Belleville Twp	Essex	Municipal Stadium Grandstand Improvements	\$680,000
East Orange City	Essex	Oval Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Montclair Twp	Essex	Mountainside Park Improvements	\$1,867,000
Monroe Twp	Gloucester	Amphitheater at Owens Memorial Park	\$1,302,000
Hudson County	Hudson	James J. Braddock Park Nature Trail	\$2,099,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Veterans Park Shoreline Restoration & Resiliency	\$605,000

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6

Hoboken City	Hudson	800 Monroe Resiliency Park Project	\$500,000
Union City	Hudson	Ellsworth Park Improvements	\$1,400,000
Weehawken Twp	Hudson	Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion II	\$2,000,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Assunpink Greenway Park Development	\$2,000,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Veteran Memorial Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Brick Twp	Ocean	Windward Beach Playground Rehabilitation	\$405,000
Passaic City	Passaic	Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park Improvements	\$985,000
Salem City	Salem	Salem City Pool Recreational Area	\$573,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Wheeler Spray Park	\$1,575,000
Total			\$29,145,000

1

2 b. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and

3 conservation purposes, located in densely or highly populated

4 municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties, are

5 eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to

6 section 2 of this act:

7

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Egg Harbor Twp	Atlantic	Veteran's Memorial Park Improvements – Phase I	\$139,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Riverside County Park South	\$2,500,000
New Milford Boro	Bergen	Williams Field Lighting	\$148,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Argonne Park Restroom & Splash Pad Improvements	\$375,000
West Caldwell Twp	Essex	Grover Cleveland Field Improvements	\$1,500,000
Edison Twp	Middlesex	Angels Field Improvement Project	\$1,050,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Field House	\$832,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Improvements	\$975,000

Keyport Boro	Monmouth	Fireman's Park Improvements	\$872,000
Dover Town	Morris	Waterworks Splash Water Park	\$400,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Deer Hollow Park Improvements	\$707,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Peckman Preserve Improvements	\$2,018,000
North Plainfield Boro	Somerset	Green Acres Park Inclusive Playground	\$435,000
Total			\$11,951,000

1

2 c. The following standard park development projects are
3 eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to
4 section 2 of this act:

5

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Hamilton Twp	Atlantic	Liepe Recreation Complex	\$1,000,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	Bike Path Improvements	\$342,000
Burlington City	Burlington	6th Street Park Improvements	\$955,000
Burlington Twp	Burlington	Amenity Expansions at Green Acres II	\$1,000,000
Greenwich Twp	Gloucester	Memorial Park Improvements	\$1,000,000
Woolwich Twp	Gloucester	Locke Ave Park Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Little Falls Twp	Passaic	Amity Field Park Improvements	\$84,000
Carneys Point Twp	Salem	Recreation Complex Improvements	\$511,000
Alpha Boro	Warren	Walking Trail Phase 1	\$746,000
Total			\$6,638,000

6

7 d. The following projects for stewardship activities are eligible
8 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
9 this act:

S4567 GREENSTEIN, SINGLETON

8

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
West Orange Twp	Essex	Vincent's Pond Improvements	\$906,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Lake Restoration and Enhancement	\$105,000
Middlesex Boro	Middlesex	Victor Crowell Park Stewardship Improvements	\$76,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Lambert Castle Historic Landscape Restoration II	\$2,500,000
Somerset County	Somerset	Green Knoll Golf Course Hydro-raking	\$174,000
Union County	Union	Deserted Village Improvements	\$191,000
Linden City	Union	Wilson Pond Restoration	\$295,000
Total			\$4,247,000

1

2 e. The following projects for completely inclusive

3 playgrounds, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-

4 27.1), are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated

5 pursuant to section 2 of this act:

6

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Brigantine City	Atlantic	East Shore Drive Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Hammonton Town	Atlantic	Jake's Law Playground at Hammonton Lake Park	\$745,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	JFK Park Inclusive Playground	\$423,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Pascack Brook County Park CIP	\$1,000,000
East Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Anthony Gallo Park	\$544,000
Fort Lee Boro	Bergen	Constitution Park Playground Improvements Project	\$693,000
Franklin Lakes Boro	Bergen	Pulis Avenue Jake's Law Playground	\$750,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Garden Court East Park Project	\$496,000
Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Tamblyn Together	\$536,000

S4567 GREENSTEIN, SINGLETON

Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Votee Park Inclusive Playground Improvements	\$750,000
Maple Shade Twp	Burlington	Improvements to Buttonwood Park	\$750,000
Moorestown Twp	Burlington	Full Throttle IP at Wesley Bishop Park	\$750,000
Camden County	Camden	New Camden Park Playground	\$883,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Jake's Law Playground Valleybrook Complex	\$750,000
Lower Twp	Cape May	Jake's Law Playground at Rotary Park	\$750,000
Stone Harbor Boro	Cape May	82nd St. Jakes Law Playground	\$750,000
Nutley Twp	Essex	Father Glotzbach Park Inclusive Playground	\$403,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Colgate Park Playground	\$503,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Improvements to North Street Park	\$534,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	Tom Olivieri Park Improvement Project	\$750,000
Secaucus Town	Hudson	Schmidt's Woods Park Inclusive Playground	\$630,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Park Inclusive Playground	\$938,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Inclusive Playground at Franklin Park	\$750,000
Carteret Boro	Middlesex	Carteret Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Inclusive Playground	\$642,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Truxton Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
South River Boro	Middlesex	Volunteer Memorial Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Fair Haven Boro	Monmouth	McCarter Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Red Bank Boro	Monmouth	Marine Park Playground Improvement	\$750,000

Spring Lake Boro	Monmouth	Divine Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Beach Haven Boro	Ocean	Together We Play	\$750,000
Lavalette Boro	Ocean	Chandler Park Jake's Law Improvements	\$652,000
Pine Beach Boro	Ocean	Vista Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Clifton Avenue Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Weasel Brook Park Playground Replacement	\$850,000
Pennsville Twp	Salem	Riverview Beach Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Unami Park	\$1,000,000
Linden City	Union	George L. Milkosky Jake's Law Playground	\$590,000
Plainfield City	Union	Hannah Atkins Completely Inclusive Playground	\$459,000
Total			\$28,271,000
Grand Total, Development			\$80,252,000

1
2 6. The department shall utilize \$3 million of the moneys
3 appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act to establish a Planning
4 Grant program, the purpose of which shall be to provide matching
5 grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and
6 other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for
7 additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State.
8 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of
9 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48) or any other law to the contrary, the
10 distribution of grant funds pursuant to this section shall not require
11 the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

12
13 7. a. Any transfer of funds, or change in project sponsor, site,
14 or type, listed in section 4 or 5 of this act shall require the approval
15 of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

16 b. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects
17 listed in section 4 or 5 of this act are offered funding pursuant
18 thereto, any project of a local government unit that previously
19 received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green
20 Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State
21 Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and
22 conservation purposes, or that receives funding approved pursuant

1 to this act, shall be eligible to receive additional funding, as
2 determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, subject
3 to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its
4 successor.

5
6 8. a. There is reappropriated to the Department of
7 Environmental Protection the unexpended balances, due to project
8 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts
9 appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any
10 annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres
11 Preservation Trust Fund to assist local government units to acquire
12 or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for the
13 purposes of providing:

14 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
15 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
16 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
17 act; and

18 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
19 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
20 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
21 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
22 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
23 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
24 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
25 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
26 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
27 administrative costs.

28 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
29 Protection such sums as may be, or may become, available on or
30 before June 30, 2025, due to interest earnings or loan repayments in
31 any "Green Trust Fund" established pursuant to a Green Acres bond
32 act or in the "Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,"
33 for the purpose of providing:

34 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
35 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
36 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
37 act; and

38 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
39 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
40 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
41 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
42 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
43 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
44 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
45 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
46 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
47 administrative costs.

1 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
7 dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues and various
8 Green Acres funds to the Department of Environmental Protection
9 (DEP). Of the total amount appropriated by the bill, \$102,679,000
10 would be used by the DEP to provide grants or loans, or both, to
11 assist local government units in the State to acquire or develop
12 lands for recreation and conservation purposes, \$3,000,000 would
13 be used for a new planning grant program, and \$2,320,000 would be
14 used for the DEP's associated administrative costs.

15 The total amount of funding allocated for local government
16 projects listed in this bill is \$102,679,000. Of this amount,
17 \$22,427,000 is for projects to acquire lands for recreation and
18 conservation purposes identified in section 4 of the bill, and
19 \$80,252,000 is for projects to develop lands for recreation and
20 conservation purposes identified in section 5 of the bill.

21 Of the sum for projects to acquire lands for recreation and
22 conservation purposes: \$19,959,000 is allocated for planning
23 incentive open space acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in
24 municipalities and counties that have an open space tax and an
25 approved open space plan); \$2,086,000 is allocated for open space
26 acquisition projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by
27 densely populated counties; and \$382,000 is allocated for site-
28 specific incentive acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in
29 municipalities that have an open space tax, but do not have an open
30 space plan).

31 Of the sum for projects to develop lands for recreation and
32 conservation purposes: \$29,145,000 is allocated for local park
33 development projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by
34 densely populated counties; \$11,951,000 is allocated for local park
35 development projects in densely or highly populated municipalities
36 or sponsored by highly populated counties; \$6,638,000 is allocated
37 for standard local park development projects (i.e., projects located
38 in municipalities that do not meet the criteria of the prior two
39 categories); \$4,247,000 is allocated for stewardship activity
40 projects; and \$28,271,000 is allocated for completely inclusive
41 playground projects, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104
42 (C.13:8C-27.1), otherwise known as "Jake's Law."

43 The projects approved by the bill include projects in "urban aid"
44 and densely or highly populated municipalities and counties. The
45 bill defines a "densely or highly populated municipality" as a
46 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
47 square mile or a population of at least 35,000 persons; a "densely
48 populated county" as a county with a population density of at least

1 5,000 persons per square mile; and a “highly populated county” as a
2 county with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per
3 square mile.

4 In addition, the bill would appropriate \$3 million to the DEP in
5 order to establish a new a Planning Grant program, the purpose of
6 which would be to provide matching grants to local governments to
7 fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to
8 identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and
9 conservation initiatives in the State.

10 To the extent that there are funds remaining after the local
11 government unit projects listed in this bill are offered funding, the
12 bill also authorizes the DEP, with the approval of the JBOC, to use
13 those funds to provide additional funding for local government unit
14 projects listed in this bill as well as for local government unit
15 projects previously approved for funding pursuant to various other
16 laws. The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP
17 and the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT).

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4567

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4567.

As reported, this bill appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues and various Green Acres funds to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Of the total amount appropriated by the bill, \$102,679,000 would be used by the DEP to provide grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units in the State to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, \$3,000,000 would be used for a new planning grant program, and \$2,320,000 would be used for the DEP's associated administrative costs.

The total amount of funding allocated for local government projects listed in this bill is \$102,679,000. Of this amount, \$22,427,000 is for projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes identified in section 4 of the bill, and \$80,252,000 is for projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes identified in section 5 of the bill.

Of the sum for projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes: \$19,959,000 is allocated for planning incentive open space acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in municipalities and counties that have an open space tax and an approved open space plan); \$2,086,000 is allocated for open space acquisition projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by densely populated counties; and \$382,000 is allocated for site-specific incentive acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in municipalities that have an open space tax, but do not have an open space plan).

Of the sum for projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes: \$29,145,000 is allocated for local park development projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by densely populated counties; \$11,951,000 is allocated for local park development projects in densely or highly populated municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties; \$6,638,000 is allocated for standard local park development projects (i.e., projects located in municipalities that do not meet the criteria of the prior two categories); \$4,247,000 is allocated for stewardship activity projects; and \$28,271,000 is allocated for completely inclusive playground projects, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-27.1), otherwise known as "Jake's Law."

The projects approved by the bill include projects in “urban aid” and densely or highly populated municipalities and counties. The bill defines a “densely or highly populated municipality” as a municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile or a population of at least 35,000 persons; a “densely populated county” as a county with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile; and a “highly populated county” as a county with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile.

In addition, the bill would appropriate \$3 million to the DEP in order to establish a new a Planning Grant program, the purpose of which would be to provide matching grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State.

To the extent that there are funds remaining after the local government unit projects listed in this bill are offered funding, the bill also authorizes the DEP, with the approval of the JBOC, to use those funds to provide additional funding for local government unit projects listed in this bill as well as for local government unit projects previously approved for funding pursuant to various other laws. The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP and the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT).

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5860

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 19, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Assemblyman BALVIR SINGH

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects, and for certain administrative expenses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT appropriating \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
2 dedicated corporation business tax revenues and various Green
3 Acres funds to assist local government units to acquire, develop,
4 and conduct planning activities related to, lands for recreation
5 and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative
6 expenses.

7
8 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
9 of New Jersey:

10
11 1. As used in this act:

12 “Constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues”
13 means corporation business tax revenues dedicated pursuant to
14 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the
15 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” for the acquisition or
16 development of lands by local government units for recreation and
17 conservation purposes in accordance with the provisions of
18 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

19 “Densely or highly populated municipality” means a
20 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
21 square mile, or a population of at least 35,000 persons, according to
22 the latest federal decennial census.

23 “Densely populated county” means a county with a population
24 density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile according to the
25 latest federal decennial census.

26 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the
27 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152
28 (C.13:8C-19).

29 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,
30 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,
31 and P.L.1983, c.354.

32 “Highly populated county” means a county with a population
33 density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile according to the
34 latest federal decennial census.

35 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund
36 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”
37 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

38 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in
39 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
40 (C.13:8C-45).

41
42 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
43 Protection the following sums for the purpose of providing grants or
44 loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire lands for
45 recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to section 4 of this
46 act and for the purpose of providing grants or loans, or both, to
47 assist local government units to develop lands for recreation and
48 conservation purposes pursuant to section 5 of this act:

- 1 a. \$52,679,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation
2 business tax revenues. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this
3 subsection, the sum of \$8,352,000 is available due to interest
4 earnings on the constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax
5 revenues;
- 6 b. \$13,000,000 from the “Garden State Green Acres
7 Preservation Trust Fund” and any Green Acres fund established
8 pursuant to a Green Acres bond act, made available due to loan
9 repayments and interest earnings; and
- 10 c. \$40,000,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres
11 Fund,” the “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,”
12 and any Green Acres fund established pursuant to a Green Acres
13 bond act, made available due to project cancellations and
14 withdrawals.
15
- 16 3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
17 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” the sum of \$54,999,000
18 to implement the provisions of this act.
- 19 b. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this
20 section, the sum of \$2,320,000 is appropriated from the “Preserve
21 New Jersey Green Acres Fund” to the Department of Environmental
22 Protection for the purposes of paying administrative costs
23 associated with administering the applicable provisions of
24 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).
25
- 26 4. a. The following planning incentive acquisition projects to
27 acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible
28 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
29 this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Burlington County	Burlington	Planning Incentive	\$150,000
Cherry Hill Twp	Camden	Planning Incentive Grant	\$1,025,000
Clementon Boro	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$342,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Livingston Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$362,000
Verona Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,500,000
Gloucester County	Gloucester	Open Space Plan	\$2,000,000
Readington Twp	Hunterdon	Greenway Incentive Plan	\$1,000,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$825,000
West Windsor Twp	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$1,000,000
Monmouth County	Monmouth	Planning Incentive Acquisition	\$2,500,000
Millstone Twp	Monmouth	Planning Incentive	\$484,000
Denville Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$700,000
Madison Boro	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Mendham Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$546,000
Point Pleasant Beach Boro	Ocean	Open Space & Recreation Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Somerset County	Somerset	County Open Space Acquisition	\$295,000
Montgomery Twp	Somerset	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Warren County	Warren	Open Space Plan	\$665,000
Knowlton Twp	Warren	Open Space Acquisition	\$565,000
Total			\$19,959,000

1
2 b. The following projects to acquire lands for recreation and
3 conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive
4 State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either
5 as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by

1 densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the
2 moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

3

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Bloomfield Twp	Essex	Third River Park and Preserve	\$2,000,000
Neptune Twp	Monmouth	Division Street Park Acquisition	\$86,000
Total			\$2,086,000

4

5 c. The following site-specific incentive acquisition projects to
6 acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible
7 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
8 this act:

9

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp	Morris	Kosut Tract Acquisition	\$382,000
Total			\$382,000
Grand Total, Acquisition			\$22,427,000

10

11 5. a. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and
12 conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive
13 State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either
14 as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by
15 densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the
16 moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Atlantic City	Atlantic	Dolphin Field Improvements	\$1,330,000
Bergenfield Boro	Bergen	Twin Boro Park Improvements Project – Phase 3	\$673,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Columbus Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Hackensack City	Bergen	Foschini Park Improvements	\$1,152,000
Pennsauken Twp	Camden	Stockton Park Improvements	\$770,000
Vineland City	Cumberland	Romano Complex Improvements	\$1,313,000
Essex County	Essex	Irvington Park Improvements	\$1,916,000
Belleville Twp	Essex	Municipal Stadium Grandstand Improvements	\$680,000
East Orange City	Essex	Oval Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Montclair Twp	Essex	Mountainside Park Improvements	\$1,867,000
Monroe Twp	Gloucester	Amphitheater at Owens Memorial Park	\$1,302,000
Hudson County	Hudson	James J. Braddock Park Nature Trail	\$2,099,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Veterans Park Shoreline Restoration & Resiliency	\$605,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	800 Monroe Resiliency Park Project	\$500,000
Union City	Hudson	Ellsworth Park Improvements	\$1,400,000
Weehawken Twp	Hudson	Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion II	\$2,000,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Assunpink Greenway Park Development	\$2,000,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Veteran Memorial Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Brick Twp	Ocean	Windward Beach Playground Rehabilitation	\$405,000
Passaic City	Passaic	Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park Improvements	\$985,000

Salem City	Salem	Salem City Pool Recreational Area	\$573,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Wheeler Spray Park	\$1,575,000
Total			\$29,145,000

b. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in densely or highly populated municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Egg Harbor Twp	Atlantic	Veteran's Memorial Park Improvements – Phase I	\$139,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Riverside County Park South	\$2,500,000
New Milford Boro	Bergen	Williams Field Lighting	\$148,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Argonne Park Restroom & Splash Pad Improvements	\$375,000
West Caldwell Twp	Essex	Grover Cleveland Field Improvements	\$1,500,000
Edison Twp	Middlesex	Angels Field Improvement Project	\$1,050,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Field House	\$832,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Improvements	\$975,000
Keyport Boro	Monmouth	Fireman's Park Improvements	\$872,000
Dover Town	Morris	Waterworks Splash Water Park	\$400,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Deer Hollow Park Improvements	\$707,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Peckman Preserve Improvements	\$2,018,000
North Plainfield Boro	Somerset	Green Acres Park Inclusive Playground	\$435,000
Total			\$11,951,000

c. The following standard park development projects are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Hamilton Twp	Atlantic	Liepe Recreation Complex	\$1,000,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	Bike Path Improvements	\$342,000
Burlington City	Burlington	6th Street Park Improvements	\$955,000
Burlington Twp	Burlington	Amenity Expansions at Green Acres II	\$1,000,000
Greenwich Twp	Gloucester	Memorial Park Improvements	\$1,000,000
Woolwich Twp	Gloucester	Locke Ave Park Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Little Falls Twp	Passaic	Amity Field Park Improvements	\$84,000
Carneys Point Twp	Salem	Recreation Complex Improvements	\$511,000
Alpha Boro	Warren	Walking Trail Phase 1	\$746,000
Total			\$6,638,000

d. The following projects for stewardship activities are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
West Orange Twp	Essex	Vincent's Pond Improvements	\$906,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Lake Restoration and Enhancement	\$105,000
Middlesex Boro	Middlesex	Victor Crowell Park Stewardship Improvements	\$76,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Lambert Castle Historic Landscape Restoration II	\$2,500,000
Somerset County	Somerset	Green Knoll Golf Course Hydro-raking	\$174,000
Union County	Union	Deserted Village Improvements	\$191,000
Linden City	Union	Wilson Pond Restoration	\$295,000
Total			\$4,247,000

1 e. The following projects for completely inclusive
2 playgrounds, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-
3 27.1), are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated
4 pursuant to section 2 of this act:
5

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Brigantine City	Atlantic	East Shore Drive Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Hammonton Town	Atlantic	Jake's Law Playground at Hammonton Lake Park	\$745,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	JFK Park Inclusive Playground	\$423,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Pascack Brook County Park CIP	\$1,000,000
East Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Anthony Gallo Park	\$544,000
Fort Lee Boro	Bergen	Constitution Park Playground Improvements Project	\$693,000
Franklin Lakes Boro	Bergen	Pulis Avenue Jake's Law Playground	\$750,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Garden Court East Park Project	\$496,000
Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Tamblyn Together	\$536,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Votee Park Inclusive Playground Improvements	\$750,000
Maple Shade Twp	Burlington	Improvements to Buttonwood Park	\$750,000
Moorestown Twp	Burlington	Full Throttle IP at Wesley Bishop Park	\$750,000
Camden County	Camden	New Camden Park Playground	\$883,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Jake's Law Playground Valleybrook Complex	\$750,000
Lower Twp	Cape May	Jake's Law Playground at Rotary Park	\$750,000
Stone Harbor Boro	Cape May	82nd St. Jakes Law Playground	\$750,000
Nutley Twp	Essex	Father Glotzbach Park Inclusive Playground	\$403,000

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West Orange Twp	Essex	Colgate Park Playground	\$503,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Improvements to North Street Park	\$534,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	Tom Olivieri Park Improvement Project	\$750,000
Secaucus Town	Hudson	Schmidt's Woods Park Inclusive Playground	\$630,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Park Inclusive Playground	\$938,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Inclusive Playground at Franklin Park	\$750,000
Carteret Boro	Middlesex	Carteret Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Inclusive Playground	\$642,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Truxton Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
South River Boro	Middlesex	Volunteer Memorial Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Fair Haven Boro	Monmouth	McCarter Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Red Bank Boro	Monmouth	Marine Park Playground Improvement	\$750,000
Spring Lake Boro	Monmouth	Divine Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Beach Haven Boro	Ocean	Together We Play	\$750,000
Lavalette Boro	Ocean	Chandler Park Jake's Law Improvements	\$652,000
Pine Beach Boro	Ocean	Vista Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Clifton Avenue Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Weasel Brook Park Playground Replacement	\$850,000
Pennsville Twp	Salem	Riverview Beach Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Unami Park	\$1,000,000
Linden City	Union	George L. Milkosky Jake's Law Playground	\$590,000

Plainfield City	Union	Hannah Atkins Completely Inclusive Playground	\$459,000
Total			\$28,271,000
Grand Total, Development			\$80,252,000

1
2 6. The department shall utilize \$3 million of the moneys
3 appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act to establish a Planning
4 Grant program, the purpose of which shall be to provide matching
5 grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and
6 other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for
7 additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State. In
8 accordance with the provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of
9 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), any distribution of grant funds
10 pursuant to this section shall require the approval of the Joint
11 Budget Oversight Committee.

12
13 7. a. Any transfer of funds, or change in project sponsor, site,
14 or type, listed in section 4 or 5 of this act shall require the approval
15 of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

16 b. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects
17 listed in section 4 or 5 of this act are offered funding pursuant
18 thereto, any project of a local government unit that previously
19 received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green
20 Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State
21 Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and
22 conservation purposes, or that receives funding approved pursuant
23 to this act, shall be eligible to receive additional funding, as
24 determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, subject
25 to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its
26 successor.

27
28 8. a. There is reappropriated to the Department of
29 Environmental Protection the unexpended balances, due to project
30 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts
31 appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any
32 annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres
33 Preservation Trust Fund to assist local government units to acquire
34 or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for the
35 purposes of providing:

36 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
37 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
38 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
39 act; and

40 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
41 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
42 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated

1 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
2 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
3 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
4 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
5 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
6 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
7 administrative costs.

8 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
9 Protection such sums as may be, or may become, available on or
10 before June 30, 2025, due to interest earnings or loan repayments in
11 any "Green Trust Fund" established pursuant to a Green Acres bond
12 act or in the "Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,"
13 for the purpose of providing:

14 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
15 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
16 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
17 act; and

18 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
19 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
20 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
21 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
22 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
23 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
24 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
25 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
26 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
27 administrative costs.

28
29 9. This act shall take effect immediately.
30
31

32 STATEMENT

33
34 This bill appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
35 dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues and various
36 Green Acres funds to the Department of Environmental Protection
37 (DEP). Of the total amount appropriated by the bill, \$102,679,000
38 would be used by the DEP to provide grants or loans, or both, to
39 assist local government units in the State to acquire or develop
40 lands for recreation and conservation purposes, \$3,000,000 would
41 be used for a new planning grant program, and \$2,320,000 would be
42 used for the DEP's associated administrative costs.

43 The total amount of funding allocated for local government
44 projects listed in this bill is \$102,679,000. Of this amount,
45 \$22,427,000 is for projects to acquire lands for recreation and
46 conservation purposes identified in section 4 of the bill, and
47 \$80,252,000 is for projects to develop lands for recreation and
48 conservation purposes identified in section 5 of the bill.

1 Of the sum for projects to acquire lands for recreation and
2 conservation purposes: \$19,959,000 is allocated for planning
3 incentive open space acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in
4 municipalities and counties that have an open space tax and an
5 approved open space plan); \$2,086,000 is allocated for open space
6 acquisition projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by
7 densely populated counties; and \$382,000 is allocated for site-
8 specific incentive acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in
9 municipalities that have an open space tax, but do not have an open
10 space plan).

11 Of the sum for projects to develop lands for recreation and
12 conservation purposes: \$29,145,000 is allocated for local park
13 development projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by
14 densely populated counties; \$11,951,000 is allocated for local park
15 development projects in densely or highly populated municipalities
16 or sponsored by highly populated counties; \$6,638,000 is allocated
17 for standard local park development projects (i.e., projects located
18 in municipalities that do not meet the criteria of the prior two
19 categories); \$4,247,000 is allocated for stewardship activity
20 projects; and \$28,271,000 is allocated for completely inclusive
21 playground projects, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104
22 (C.13:8C-27.1), otherwise known as “Jake’s Law.”

23 The projects approved by the bill include projects in “urban aid”
24 and densely or highly populated municipalities and counties. The
25 bill defines a “densely or highly populated municipality” as a
26 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
27 square mile or a population of at least 35,000 persons; a “densely
28 populated county” as a county with a population density of at least
29 5,000 persons per square mile; and a “highly populated county” as a
30 county with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per
31 square mile.

32 In addition, the bill would appropriate \$3 million to the DEP in
33 order to establish a new a Planning Grant program, the purpose of
34 which would be to provide matching grants to local governments to
35 fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to
36 identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and
37 conservation initiatives in the State. The bill would require the
38 approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee (JBOC) for any
39 grant funds distributed under the program.

40 To the extent that there are funds remaining after the local
41 government unit projects listed in this bill are offered funding, the
42 bill also authorizes the DEP, with the approval of the JBOC, to use
43 those funds to provide additional funding for local government unit
44 projects listed in this bill as well as for local government unit
45 projects previously approved for funding pursuant to various other
46 laws. The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP
47 and the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT).

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5860

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 19, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Assemblyman BALVIR SINGH

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Donlon, Murphy, Peterpaul, Assemblyman Freiman and

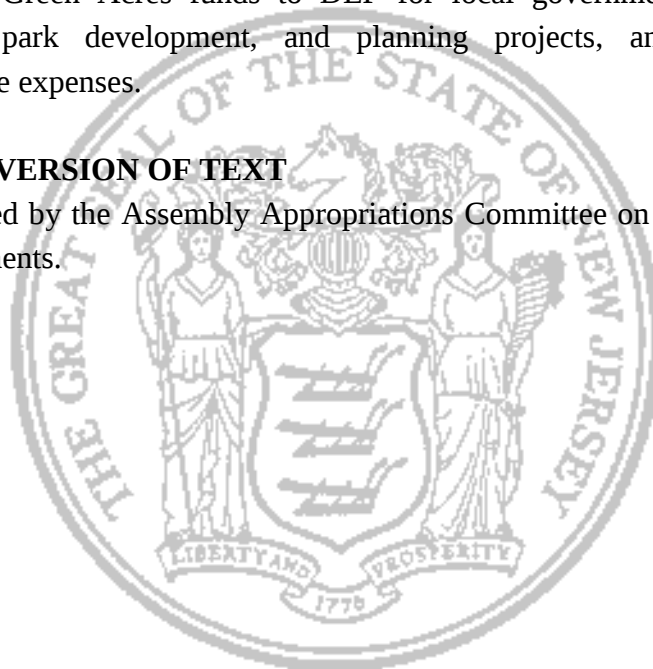
Assemblywoman Drulis

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects, and for certain administrative expenses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 19, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT appropriating \$107,999,000 from constitutionally
 2 dedicated corporation business tax revenues and various Green
 3 Acres funds to assist local government units to acquire, develop,
 4 and conduct planning activities related to, lands for recreation
 5 and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative
 6 expenses.

7
 8 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 9 of New Jersey:

10
 11 1. As used in this act:

12 “Constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues”
 13 means corporation business tax revenues dedicated pursuant to
 14 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the
 15 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” for the acquisition or
 16 development of lands by local government units for recreation and
 17 conservation purposes in accordance with the provisions of
 18 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

19 “Densely or highly populated municipality” means a
 20 municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per
 21 square mile, or a population of at least 35,000 persons, according to
 22 the latest federal decennial census.

23 “Densely populated county” means a county with a population
 24 density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile according to the
 25 latest federal decennial census.

26 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the
 27 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152
 28 (C.13:8C-19).

29 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,
 30 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,
 31 and P.L.1983, c.354.

32 “Highly populated county” means a county with a population
 33 density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile according to the
 34 latest federal decennial census.

35 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund
 36 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”
 37 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

38 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in
 39 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
 40 (C.13:8C-45).

41
 42 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
 43 Protection the following sums for the purpose of providing grants or
 44 loans, or both, to assist local government units to acquire lands for
 45 recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to section 4 of this

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:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted June 19, 2025.

1 act and for the purpose of providing grants or loans, or both, to
2 assist local government units to develop lands for recreation and
3 conservation purposes pursuant to section 5 of this act:

4 a. \$52,679,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation
5 business tax revenues. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this
6 subsection, the sum of \$8,352,000 is available due to interest
7 earnings on the constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax
8 revenues;

9 b. \$13,000,000 from the “Garden State Green Acres
10 Preservation Trust Fund” and any Green Acres fund established
11 pursuant to a Green Acres bond act, made available due to loan
12 repayments and interest earnings; and

13 c. \$40,000,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres
14 Fund,” the “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,”
15 and any Green Acres fund established pursuant to a Green Acres
16 bond act, made available due to project cancellations and
17 withdrawals.

18

19 3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
20 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” the sum of \$54,999,000
21 to implement the provisions of this act.

22 b. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this
23 section, the sum of \$2,320,000 is appropriated from the “Preserve
24 New Jersey Green Acres Fund” to the Department of Environmental
25 Protection for the purposes of paying administrative costs
26 associated with administering the applicable provisions of
27 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

28

29 4. a. The following planning incentive acquisition projects to
30 acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible
31 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
32 this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Burlington County	Burlington	Planning Incentive	\$150,000
Cherry Hill Twp	Camden	Planning Incentive Grant	\$1,025,000
Clementon Boro	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$342,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Livingston Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$362,000
Verona Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
West Orange Twp	Essex	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,500,000
Gloucester County	Gloucester	Open Space Plan	\$2,000,000
Readington Twp	Hunterdon	Greenway Incentive Plan	\$1,000,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$825,000
West Windsor Twp	Mercer	Planning Incentive	\$1,000,000
Monmouth County	Monmouth	Planning Incentive Acquisition	\$2,500,000
Millstone Twp	Monmouth	Planning Incentive	\$484,000
Denville Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$700,000
Madison Boro	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Mendham Twp	Morris	Open Space Acquisition	\$546,000
Point Pleasant Beach Boro	Ocean	Open Space & Recreation Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Somerset County	Somerset	County Open Space Acquisition	\$295,000
Montgomery Twp	Somerset	Open Space Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Warren County	Warren	Open Space Plan	\$665,000
Knowlton Twp	Warren	Open Space Acquisition	\$565,000
Total			\$19,959,000

1
2 b. The following projects to acquire lands for recreation and
3 conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive
4 State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either
5 as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by

1 densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the
2 moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

3

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Bloomfield Twp	Essex	Third River Park and Preserve	\$2,000,000
Neptune Twp	Monmouth	Division Street Park Acquisition	\$86,000
Total			\$2,086,000

4

5 c. The following site-specific incentive acquisition projects to
6 acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible
7 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
8 this act:

9

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp	Morris	Kosut Tract Acquisition	\$382,000
Total			\$382,000
Grand Total, Acquisition			\$22,427,000

10

11 5. a. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and
12 conservation purposes, located in municipalities eligible to receive
13 State aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) either
14 as of June 30, 2021 or the effective date of this act, or sponsored by
15 densely populated counties, are eligible for funding with the
16 moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Atlantic City	Atlantic	Dolphin Field Improvements	\$1,330,000
Bergenfield Boro	Bergen	Twin Boro Park Improvements Project – Phase 3	\$673,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Columbus Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Hackensack City	Bergen	Foschini Park Improvements	\$1,152,000
Pennsauken Twp	Camden	Stockton Park Improvements	\$770,000
Vineland City	Cumberland	Romano Complex Improvements	\$1,313,000
Essex County	Essex	Irvington Park Improvements	\$1,916,000
Belleville Twp	Essex	Municipal Stadium Grandstand Improvements	\$680,000
East Orange City	Essex	Oval Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Montclair Twp	Essex	Mountainside Park Improvements	\$1,867,000
Monroe Twp	Gloucester	Amphitheater at Owens Memorial Park	\$1,302,000
Hudson County	Hudson	James J. Braddock Park Nature Trail	\$2,099,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Veterans Park Shoreline Restoration & Resiliency	\$605,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	800 Monroe Resiliency Park Project	\$500,000
Union City	Hudson	Ellsworth Park Improvements	\$1,400,000
Weehawken Twp	Hudson	Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion II	\$2,000,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Assunpink Greenway Park Development	\$2,000,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Veteran Memorial Park Improvements	\$2,000,000
Brick Twp	Ocean	Windward Beach Playground Rehabilitation	\$405,000
Passaic City	Passaic	Third Ward Veterans Memorial Park Improvements	\$985,000

Salem City	Salem	Salem City Pool Recreational Area	\$573,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Wheeler Spray Park	\$1,575,000
Total			\$29,145,000

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b. The following projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, located in densely or highly populated municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties, are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Egg Harbor Twp	Atlantic	Veteran's Memorial Park Improvements – Phase I	\$139,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Riverside County Park South	\$2,500,000
New Milford Boro	Bergen	Williams Field Lighting	\$148,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Argonne Park Restroom & Splash Pad Improvements	\$375,000
West Caldwell Twp	Essex	Grover Cleveland Field Improvements	\$1,500,000
Edison Twp	Middlesex	Angels Field Improvement Project	\$1,050,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Field House	\$832,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Improvements	\$975,000
Keyport Boro	Monmouth	Fireman's Park Improvements	\$872,000
Dover Town	Morris	Waterworks Splash Water Park	\$400,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Deer Hollow Park Improvements	\$707,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Peckman Preserve Improvements	\$2,018,000
North Plainfield Boro	Somerset	Green Acres Park Inclusive Playground	\$435,000
Total			\$11,951,000

8

9

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11

c. The following standard park development projects are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act:

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Hamilton Twp	Atlantic	Liepe Recreation Complex	\$1,000,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	Bike Path Improvements	\$342,000
Burlington City	Burlington	6th Street Park Improvements	\$955,000
Burlington Twp	Burlington	Amenity Expansions at Green Acres II	\$1,000,000
Greenwich Twp	Gloucester	Memorial Park Improvements	\$1,000,000
Woolwich Twp	Gloucester	Locke Ave Park Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Little Falls Twp	Passaic	Amity Field Park Improvements	\$84,000
Carneys Point Twp	Salem	Recreation Complex Improvements	\$511,000
Alpha Boro	Warren	Walking Trail Phase 1	\$746,000
Total			\$6,638,000

1
2 d. The following projects for stewardship activities are eligible
3 for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to section 2 of
4 this act:
5

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
West Orange Twp	Essex	Vincent's Pond Improvements	\$906,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Lake Restoration and Enhancement	\$105,000
Middlesex Boro	Middlesex	Victor Crowell Park Stewardship Improvements	\$76,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Lambert Castle Historic Landscape Restoration II	\$2,500,000
Somerset County	Somerset	Green Knoll Golf Course Hydro-raking	\$174,000
Union County	Union	Deserted Village Improvements	\$191,000
Linden City	Union	Wilson Pond Restoration	\$295,000
Total			\$4,247,000

1 e. The following projects for completely inclusive
2 playgrounds, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-
3 27.1), are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated
4 pursuant to section 2 of this act:
5

Local Government Unit	County	Project	Approved Amount
Brigantine City	Atlantic	East Shore Drive Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Hammonton Town	Atlantic	Jake's Law Playground at Hammonton Lake Park	\$745,000
Somers Point City	Atlantic	JFK Park Inclusive Playground	\$423,000
Bergen County	Bergen	Pascack Brook County Park CIP	\$1,000,000
East Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Anthony Gallo Park	\$544,000
Fort Lee Boro	Bergen	Constitution Park Playground Improvements Project	\$693,000
Franklin Lakes Boro	Bergen	Pulis Avenue Jake's Law Playground	\$750,000
Garfield City	Bergen	Garden Court East Park Project	\$496,000
Rutherford Boro	Bergen	Tamblyn Together	\$536,000
Teaneck Twp	Bergen	Votee Park Inclusive Playground Improvements	\$750,000
Maple Shade Twp	Burlington	Improvements to Buttonwood Park	\$750,000
Moorestown Twp	Burlington	Full Throttle IP at Wesley Bishop Park	\$750,000
Camden County	Camden	New Camden Park Playground	\$883,000
Gloucester Twp	Camden	Jake's Law Playground Valleybrook Complex	\$750,000
Lower Twp	Cape May	Jake's Law Playground at Rotary Park	\$750,000
Stone Harbor Boro	Cape May	82nd St. Jakes Law Playground	\$750,000
Nutley Twp	Essex	Father Glotzbach Park Inclusive Playground	\$403,000

West Orange Twp	Essex	Colgate Park Playground	\$503,000
Bayonne City	Hudson	Improvements to North Street Park	\$534,000
Hoboken City	Hudson	Tom Olivieri Park Improvement Project	\$750,000
Secaucus Town	Hudson	Schmidt's Woods Park Inclusive Playground	\$630,000
Mercer County	Mercer	Rosedale Park Inclusive Playground	\$938,000
Trenton City	Mercer	Inclusive Playground at Franklin Park	\$750,000
Carteret Boro	Middlesex	Carteret Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
North Brunswick Twp	Middlesex	Sabella Park Inclusive Playground	\$642,000
Perth Amboy City	Middlesex	Truxton Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Sayreville Boro	Middlesex	Bailey Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
South River Boro	Middlesex	Volunteer Memorial Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Fair Haven Boro	Monmouth	McCarter Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Red Bank Boro	Monmouth	Marine Park Playground Improvement	\$750,000
Spring Lake Boro	Monmouth	Divine Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Beach Haven Boro	Ocean	Together We Play	\$750,000
Lavalette Boro	Ocean	Chandler Park Jake's Law Improvements	\$652,000
Pine Beach Boro	Ocean	Vista Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Toms River Twp	Ocean	Clifton Avenue Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Passaic County	Passaic	Weasel Brook Park Playground Replacement	\$850,000
Pennsville Twp	Salem	Riverview Beach Park Inclusive Playground	\$750,000
Union County	Union	Improvements at Unami Park	\$1,000,000
Linden City	Union	George L. Milkosky Jake's Law Playground	\$590,000

Plainfield City	Union	Hannah Atkins Completely Inclusive Playground	\$459,000
Total			\$28,271,000
Grand Total, Development			\$80,252,000

1
2 6. The department shall utilize \$3 million of the moneys
3 appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act to establish a Planning
4 Grant program, the purpose of which shall be to provide matching
5 grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and
6 other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for
7 additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State. ¹ **【In**
8 **accordance with】** Notwithstanding¹ the provisions of subsection e.
9 of section 6 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48) ¹ or any other law to the
10 contrary¹, ¹ **【any】** the¹ distribution of grant funds pursuant to this
11 section shall ¹ not¹ require the approval of the Joint Budget
12 Oversight Committee.

13
14 7. a. Any transfer of funds, or change in project sponsor, site,
15 or type, listed in section 4 or 5 of this act shall require the approval
16 of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

17 b. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects
18 listed in section 4 or 5 of this act are offered funding pursuant
19 thereto, any project of a local government unit that previously
20 received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green
21 Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State
22 Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and
23 conservation purposes, or that receives funding approved pursuant
24 to this act, shall be eligible to receive additional funding, as
25 determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, subject
26 to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its
27 successor.

28
29 8. a. There is reappropriated to the Department of
30 Environmental Protection the unexpended balances, due to project
31 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts
32 appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any
33 annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres
34 Preservation Trust Fund to assist local government units to acquire
35 or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for the
36 purposes of providing:

37 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
38 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
39 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
40 act; and

1 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
2 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
3 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
4 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
5 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
6 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
7 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
8 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
9 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
10 administrative costs.

11 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
12 Protection such sums as may be, or may become, available on or
13 before June 30, 2025, due to interest earnings or loan repayments in
14 any "Green Trust Fund" established pursuant to a Green Acres bond
15 act or in the "Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund,"
16 for the purpose of providing:

17 (1) grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units to
18 acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes,
19 for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this
20 act; and

21 (2) additional funding, as determined by the Department of
22 Environmental Protection, to any project of a local government unit
23 that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated
24 from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or
25 the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for
26 recreation and conservation purposes or that receives funding
27 approved pursuant to this act, subject to the approval of the Joint
28 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional
29 funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include
30 administrative costs.

31

32 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5860

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 19, 2025

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5860.

As amended and reported, this bill appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues and various Green Acres funds to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Of the total amount appropriated by the bill, \$102,679,000 would be used by the DEP to provide grants or loans, or both, to assist local government units in the State to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, \$3,000,000 would be used for a new planning grant program, and \$2,320,000 would be used for the DEP's associated administrative costs.

The total amount of funding allocated for local government projects listed in this bill is \$102,679,000. Of this amount, \$22,427,000 is for projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes identified in section 4 of the bill, and \$80,252,000 is for projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes identified in section 5 of the bill.

Of the sum for projects to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes: \$19,959,000 is allocated for planning incentive open space acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in municipalities and counties that have an open space tax and an approved open space plan); \$2,086,000 is allocated for open space acquisition projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by densely populated counties; and \$382,000 is allocated for site-specific incentive acquisition projects (i.e., projects located in municipalities that have an open space tax, but do not have an open space plan).

Of the sum for projects to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes: \$29,145,000 is allocated for local park development projects in urban aid municipalities or sponsored by densely populated counties; \$11,951,000 is allocated for local park development projects in densely or highly populated municipalities or sponsored by highly populated counties; \$6,638,000 is allocated for standard local park development projects (i.e., projects located in municipalities that do not meet the criteria of the prior two categories); \$4,247,000 is allocated for stewardship activity projects; and \$28,271,000 is allocated for completely inclusive playground projects,

pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2018, c.104 (C.13:8C-27.1), otherwise known as “Jake’s Law.”

The projects approved by the bill include projects in “urban aid” and densely or highly populated municipalities and counties. The bill defines a “densely or highly populated municipality” as a municipality with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile or a population of at least 35,000 persons; a “densely populated county” as a county with a population density of at least 5,000 persons per square mile; and a “highly populated county” as a county with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile.

In addition, the bill would appropriate \$3,000,000 to the DEP in order to establish a new Planning Grant program, the purpose of which would be to provide matching grants to local governments to fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State.

To the extent that there are funds remaining after the local government unit projects listed in this bill are offered funding, the bill also authorizes the DEP, with the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee (JBOC), to use those funds to provide additional funding for local government unit projects listed in this bill as well as for local government unit projects previously approved for funding pursuant to various other laws. The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP and the Garden State Preservation Trust.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill provide that JBOC approval is not required for grants issued under the Planning Grant program established under the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Acting Governor Way Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 08/4/2025

TRENTON – Today, Acting Governor Way signed the following bills into law:

S-862/A-2596 (A.M. Bucco, Diegnan/Karabinchak, Calabrese) - Requires DOT to provide additional information in annual report on pavement condition; makes report available to public

S-4567/A-5860 (Greenstein, Singleton/Morales, Singh, Swain) - Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects, and for certain administrative expenses

A-1948/S-2223 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly/Ruiz, O'Scanlon) - Requires VCCO to issue annual report to Governor and Legislature

Governor Phil Murphy

Posted on: August 19, 2025

Bill Appropriating Funds for Parks, Recreation, & Inclusive Playgrounds Signed into Law

Morales, Singh, Swain legislation aims to revitalize community spaces and promote inclusion across New Jersey

(TRENTON) – Assemblywoman **Carmen Theresa Morales**’ legislation appropriating nearly \$108-million in investments to expand access to safe, modern and inclusive recreational spaces across New Jersey was recently signed into law. Bill **A5860** appropriates constitutionally dedicated funds for a wide range of conservation and recreation projects. Assembly members **Balvir Singh** and **Lisa Swain** also sponsored the legislation.



“This is one of those commonsense bills,” said **Assemblywoman Morales (D-Essex)**. “When speaking to the mayors, local officials, and community members in my district, it was evident that we needed to focus on improving recreation infrastructure in order for our students to continue thriving not just in the classroom, but also in their after-school activities as well.”

The legislation prioritizes projects in urban and municipalities and densely populated communities where recreational space is often limited and urgently needed. Specifically, the bill appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues and various Green Acres funds to assist local government units to acquire, develop, and conduct planning activities related to lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative expenses.

“Parks, playgrounds, and recreational spaces are the bedrock on which our communities flourish,” said **Assemblyman Singh (D-Burlington)**. “These spaces allow neighbors to connect, children to grow, and families to build lasting memories. I’m proud to support legislation that strengthens the social fabric of our towns.”

“Too many towns simply don’t have the resources or the open space to keep up with their residents’ recreational needs,” said **Assemblywoman Swain (D-Bergen)**. “By directing funding to where it’s needed most, we’re helping to prioritize recreational access and inclusion for families across the state.”

Assemblywomen Donlon and Peterpaul Announce 13 Bills Signed Into Law This Summer

TINTON FALLS - The Governor signed 13 of Assemblywoman Margie Donlon and Assemblywoman Luanne Peterpaul's bills into law this summer.

Either Assemblywoman Donlon or Assemblywoman Peterpaul, or both, and Senator Vin Gopal, (D-Monmouth) were the prime sponsors of four of the bills and cosponsors of the remaining nine.

"Many of these bills support small businesses and protect consumers. They reflect the concerns that Legislative District 11 residents tell us are important to them, such as utility costs, as we travel around the district talking to businesses and residents," said Assemblywoman Peterpaul.



The bills on which the Assemblywomen were primary sponsors include A5768, which requires the BPU to revise community solar program targets and directs the agency to open registration by October 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. Senator Gopal was a primary sponsor of the Senate version. Another of their bills, A5141, establishes an historic distillery license to allow the manufacturing and consumption of distilled alcoholic beverages on-and-off premises under certain circumstances by a licensee on the NJ Register of Historic Places. Senator Gopal also was a primary sponsor.

"Our sponsored bills also address healthcare concerns, which are a top priority for the LD11 office, and ensure healthcare insurance is more accessible and affordable," said Donlon, who is a physician and primary sponsor of A5810, which promotes equity in the health insurance appeal process. "This bill eliminates fees for appeals against health insurance carriers that deny, reduce, or terminate benefits."

Assemblywoman Donlon and Senator Gopal also were primary sponsors of A5199, a new law that requires eligible resident and fellow physicians employed by Rutgers University, including University Hospital, and their dependents, receive coverage in the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) on the first day of employment.

"This legislation corrects a situation that resulted in these healthcare professionals working in hospital environments, where they are exposed to diseases, infections and other dangers, but didn't have health coverage for a period of time," Gopal said.

The LD11 legislators also cosponsored nine other bills that became the law since June 30 of this year. These bills include:

[A5792](#) - Provides for workers' compensation coverage of certain counseling services for first responders and ensures that mental health-related communications are confidential.

[A5687](#) - Establishes the "Next New Jersey Manufacturing Program" to incentivize in-state manufacturing investments and job creation.

[A5466](#) - Requires the BPU to study the effects of data centers on electricity costs.

[A5463](#) - Requires electric public utilities to submit an annual report on voting to the BPU.

[A5447](#) - Prohibits the sweepstakes model of wagering; establishes new penalties for unlawful gambling operations and practices; directs Division of Consumer Affairs and Division of Gaming Enforcement to enforce penalties.

[S4567](#) - Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated Corporate Business Tax revenues and various Green Acres funds to the DEP to make grants to local governments for open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects.

[S4476](#) - Permits awarding of contracts for certain preschool education services by resolution of the board of education; extends the maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years. Senator Gopal was a primary sponsor in the Senate.

[S3910](#) - Makes various changes to the provision of preschool aid and facilities requirements; establishes Universal Preschool Implementation Steering Committee; requires full-day kindergarten in all school districts.

[S3711](#) - Makes annual allocations of \$500,000 from the Clean Communities Program Fund for public outreach concerning single-use plastics reduction programs permanent.