

R.S. 4:24-17.1

LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

ON

N.J.R.S. 4:24-17.1 (Soil conservation dist. - Divide)
(1966 Amendment)

LAWS OF 1966

CHAPTER 77

SENATE 262

~~ASSEMBLY~~

INTRODUCED Mar 7, 1966

BY Waddington, Forsythe

STATEMENT

YES

NO

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE

YES

NO

HEARING

VETO

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72 or estate therein, by condemnation without first obtaining the approval of the
73 Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Conservation and Eco-
74 nomic Development.

75 l. As a condition to the extending of any benefits under this chapter,
76 to, or the performance of work upon, any lands not owned or controlled
77 by this State or any of its agencies, the supervisors may require contribu-
78 tions in money, services, materials, or otherwise to any operations con-
79 ferring such benefits, and may require landowners to enter into and perform
80 such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as
81 will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon;

82 m. To borrow money for the purchase of equipment, either with or with-
83 out security;

84 n. No provisions with respect to the acquisition, operations, or disposi-
85 tion of property by other public bodies shall be applicable to a district or-
86 ganized hereunder unless the Legislature shall specifically so state.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

The operation of some of the multi county soil conservation districts has become too cumbersome and too ineffective to properly deal with the magnitude and variety of soil and water conservation problems which now exist. There is a necessity and a desire to divide some of the larger districts into 2 or more independent units. The suggested legislative change also permits the joining of districts, should this be advantageous at sometime in the future.

The job of adequately dealing with the rapid increase in soil and water conservation problems accompanying more intensive land use requires a broader representation of interests and experience on the boards of supervisors. This increase should also make possible more effective district subcommittee activity, participation of more local people in the business of planning for and

executing local conservation programs and a greater assurance that district business can be conducted when illness or another reason prevents the attendance at board meetings of one or 2 supervisors.

Soil conservation districts have no taxing powers. They rely for funds upon private contributions and allocations from the State Soil Conservation Committee. The State Committee allocations generally cover clerical wages, some supervisor expenses and per diem, office supplies and small amounts of educational expenses. However, the districts require more funds than are received from the State Committee in order to properly fulfill their responsibilities. The proposed legislation would make it possible for districts to legally accept payments and contributions from counties, municipalities and from private sources.