





P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 54, *approved May 9, 2025*  
Senate, No. 3199 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey-Haiti Commission and  
2 supplementing chapter 18A of Title 52.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 The State of New Jersey recognizes its historical ties with Haiti  
9 and economic concerns shared by its Haitian-American residents  
10 regarding the Republic of Haiti;

11 Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural  
12 disasters, political instability, and socio-economic hardships;

13 It is imperative for New Jersey to recognize that it has the 4th  
14 largest Haitian population in the United States; and

15 The State should take concrete steps to address the economic  
16 challenges within its Haitian-American community and should work  
17 diligently to foster a mutual and beneficial relationship with Haiti.

18

19 2. a. The New Jersey-Haiti Commission is hereby created and  
20 established in the Department of State. The commission shall advise  
21 the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic and  
22 cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be  
23 taken to address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-  
24 American community.

25 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the  
26 Secretary of State, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson, and  
27 12 public members who shall represent a variety of different  
28 professional sectors across the State, including non-profit  
29 organizations serving the Haitian community. The public members  
30 shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>**by the Governor**<sup>1</sup> as follows: <sup>1</sup>**four** six public  
31 members shall be appointed by the Governor; two<sup>1</sup> public members  
32 shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the recommendation of the  
33 President of the Senate, <sup>1</sup>**four** one<sup>1</sup> public <sup>1</sup>**members** member<sup>1</sup>  
34 shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the recommendation of the  
35 Minority Leader of the Senate; <sup>1</sup>**four** two<sup>1</sup> public members shall be  
36 appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the recommendation of the Speaker  
37 of the General Assembly, and <sup>1</sup>**four** one<sup>1</sup> public <sup>1</sup>**members**

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SSG committee amendments adopted October 24, 2024.

1 member<sup>1</sup> shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the  
2 recommendation of the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

3 c. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term  
4 of three years, except that of the members first appointed, four shall be  
5 appointed to a term of one year, four shall be appointed to a term of  
6 two years, and four shall be appointed to a term of three years, as  
7 determined by the Governor. Public members shall be eligible for  
8 reappointment. The public members shall serve until their successors  
9 are appointed and qualified, and the term of the successor of any  
10 incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of the term of that  
11 incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than the expiration of the term  
12 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for  
13 the unexpired term only.

14 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
15 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary  
16 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits  
17 of funds appropriated for that purpose.

18 e. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing on a  
19 quarterly basis and shall consult with stakeholders, experts, and  
20 members of the public to gather information related to the current  
21 economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in New  
22 Jersey and on the economic and cultural links between the State and  
23 Haiti.

24  
25 3. a. The commission shall:

26 conduct a comprehensive review of historical ties between New  
27 Jersey and Haiti, including existing cultural exchanges, economic  
28 interactions, and the number of Haitians settling in New Jersey, as  
29 well as their patterns of migration to the State;

30 collect and analyze quantitative data, including census numbers,  
31 demographic trends, and economic indicators, to assess the current  
32 state of affairs in the Haitian-American community as related to  
33 civic engagement and their political and economic impacts in New  
34 Jersey, and how the State can assist the Haitian-American  
35 community within the State;

36 analyze ways for New Jersey to establish a strong partnership  
37 and bilateral cooperation with Haiti, including but not limited to,  
38 providing logistical and technical assistance related to access to  
39 healthcare, education, and access to a fair and impartial judicial  
40 system;

41 identify areas for economic collaboration, and partnership  
42 between New Jersey and Haiti, including but not limited to, trade  
43 promotions, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges; and

44 recommend policy initiatives, legislation, and programs to  
45 support economic development efforts in the Haitian-American  
46 community in this State and to support economic and cultural links  
47 in Haiti.

1       b. The commission may authorize studies, reports, and research  
2 projects to further its objectives and consult with State agencies, the  
3 Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
4 working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.

5       c. The commission shall report its findings and  
6 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to  
7 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than one year  
8 after the date the commission first meets and annually thereafter.

9       d. The commission, through the Department of State, may  
10 solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available  
11 for the commission's purposes by any governmental, public,  
12 private, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity, including funds that are  
13 made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or  
14 program.

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16       4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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21       \_\_\_\_\_

Establishes New Jersey-Haiti Commission.

## CHAPTER 54

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey-Haiti Commission and supplementing chapter 18A of Title 52.

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

C.52:16A-141 Findings, declarations.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

The State of New Jersey recognizes its historical ties with Haiti and economic concerns shared by its Haitian-American residents regarding the Republic of Haiti;

Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural disasters, political instability, and socio-economic hardships;

It is imperative for New Jersey to recognize that it has the fourth largest Haitian population in the United States; and

The State should take concrete steps to address the economic challenges within its Haitian-American community and should work diligently to foster a mutual and beneficial relationship with Haiti.

C.52:16A-142 The New Jersey-Haiti Commission established.

2. a. The New Jersey-Haiti Commission is hereby created and established in the Department of State. The commission shall advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-American community.

b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the Secretary of State, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson, and 12 public members who shall represent a variety of different professional sectors across the State, including non-profit organizations serving the Haitian community. The public members shall be appointed as follows: six public members shall be appointed by the Governor, two public members shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the President of the Senate, one public member shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate, two public members shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and one public member shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

c. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term of three years, except that of the members first appointed, four shall be appointed to a term of one year, four shall be appointed to a term of two years, and four shall be appointed to a term of three years, as determined by the Governor. Public members shall be eligible for reappointment. The public members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than the expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

d. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds appropriated for that purpose.

e. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing on a quarterly basis and shall consult with stakeholders, experts, and members of the public to gather information related to the current economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in New Jersey and on the economic and cultural links between the State and Haiti.

C.52:16A-143 New Jersey-Haiti Commission, duties, objectives; report to Governor, Legislature.

3. a. The commission shall:

conduct a comprehensive review of historical ties between New Jersey and Haiti, including existing cultural exchanges, economic interactions, and the number of Haitians settling in New Jersey, as well as their patterns of migration to the State;

collect and analyze quantitative data, including census numbers, demographic trends, and economic indicators, to assess the current state of affairs in the Haitian-American community as related to civic engagement and their political and economic impacts in New Jersey and how the State can assist the Haitian-American community within the State;

analyze ways for New Jersey to establish a strong partnership and bilateral cooperation with Haiti, including, but not limited to, providing logistical and technical assistance related to access to healthcare and education and access to a fair and impartial judicial system;

identify areas for economic collaboration and partnership between New Jersey and Haiti, including, but not limited to, trade promotions, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges; and

recommend policy initiatives, legislation, and programs to support economic development efforts in the Haitian-American community in this State and to support economic and cultural links in Haiti.

b. The commission may authorize studies, reports, and research projects to further its objectives and consult with State agencies, the Haitian government, and international and local organizations working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.

c. The commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than one year after the date the commission first meets and annually thereafter.

d. The commission, through the Department of State, may solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available for the commission's purposes by any governmental, public, private, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity, including funds that are made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or program.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 9, 2025.

**SENATE, No. 3199**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey-Haiti Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S3199 TIMBERLAKE

2

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey-Haiti Commission and  
2 supplementing chapter 18A of Title 52.

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 The State of New Jersey recognizes its historical ties with Haiti  
9 and economic concerns shared by its Haitian-American residents  
10 regarding the Republic of Haiti;

11 Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural  
12 disasters, political instability, and socio-economic hardships;

13 It is imperative for New Jersey to recognize that it has the 4th  
14 largest Haitian population in the United States; and

15 The State should take concrete steps to address the economic  
16 challenges within its Haitian-American community and should work  
17 diligently to foster a mutual and beneficial relationship with Haiti.

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19 2. a. The New Jersey-Haiti Commission is hereby created and  
20 established in the Department of State. The commission shall  
21 advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic  
22 and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may  
23 be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's  
24 Haitian-American community.

25 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the  
26 Secretary of State, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson,  
27 and 12 public members who shall represent a variety of different  
28 professional sectors across the State, including non-profit  
29 organizations serving the Haitian community. The public members  
30 shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: four public members  
31 shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the President of the  
32 Senate, four public members shall be appointed upon the  
33 recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate; four public  
34 members shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the  
35 Speaker of the General Assembly, and four public members shall be  
36 appointed upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the  
37 General Assembly.

38 c. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a  
39 term of three years, except that of the members first appointed, four  
40 shall be appointed to a term of one year, four shall be appointed to a  
41 term of two years, and four shall be appointed to a term of three  
42 years, as determined by the Governor. Public members shall be  
43 eligible for reappointment. The public members shall serve until  
44 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the  
45 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration  
46 of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than the  
47 expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the  
48 original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

**S3199 TIMBERLAKE**

1 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
2 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all  
3 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties  
4 within the limits of funds appropriated for that purpose.

5 e. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing on a  
6 quarterly basis and shall consult with stakeholders, experts, and  
7 members of the public to gather information related to the current  
8 economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in New  
9 Jersey and on the economic and cultural links between the State and  
10 Haiti.

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12 3. a. The commission shall:

13 conduct a comprehensive review of historical ties between New  
14 Jersey and Haiti, including existing cultural exchanges, economic  
15 interactions, and the number of Haitians settling in New Jersey, as  
16 well as their patterns of migration to the State;

17 collect and analyze quantitative data, including census numbers,  
18 demographic trends, and economic indicators, to assess the current  
19 state of affairs in the Haitian-American community as related to  
20 civic engagement and their political and economic impacts in New  
21 Jersey, and how the State can assist the Haitian-American  
22 community within the State;

23 analyze ways for New Jersey to establish a strong partnership  
24 and bilateral cooperation with Haiti, including but not limited to,  
25 providing logistical and technical assistance related to access to  
26 healthcare, education, and access to a fair and impartial judicial  
27 system;

28 identify areas for economic collaboration, and partnership  
29 between New Jersey and Haiti, including but not limited to, trade  
30 promotions, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges; and

31 recommend policy initiatives, legislation, and programs to  
32 support economic development efforts in the Haitian-American  
33 community in this State and to support economic and cultural links  
34 in Haiti.

35 b. The commission may authorize studies, reports, and research  
36 projects to further its objectives and consult with State agencies, the  
37 Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
38 working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.

39 c. The commission shall report its findings and  
40 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to  
41 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than one year  
42 after the date the commission first meets and annually thereafter.

43 d. The commission, through the Department of State, may  
44 solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available  
45 for the commission's purposes by any governmental, public,  
46 private, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity, including funds that are  
47 made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or  
48 program.

1       4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This bill establishes the New Jersey-Haiti Commission in the  
7 Department of State. The commission shall advise the Governor  
8 and Legislature on ways to improve economic and cultural links  
9 between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be taken to  
10 address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-  
11 American community.

12       The commission will have 13 members. The Secretary of State,  
13 will serve as chairperson, and 12 members of the public will be  
14 appointed to represent a variety of different professional sectors  
15 across the State, including non-profit organizations in serving the  
16 Haitian community. The commission will hold one or more  
17 meetings on a quarterly basis.

18       The commission may conduct studies, reports, and research  
19 projects to further its objectives, and consult with State agencies,  
20 the Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
21 working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.  
22 The commission will make recommendations for policies,  
23 legislation, and initiatives related to the economic challenges of the  
24 Haitian-American community in the State and identify areas for  
25 economic collaboration and partnership between New Jersey and  
26 Haiti. The commission will report its findings and  
27 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature annually.

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3199**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex)**

**Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblyman MICHAEL VENEZIA**

**District 34 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

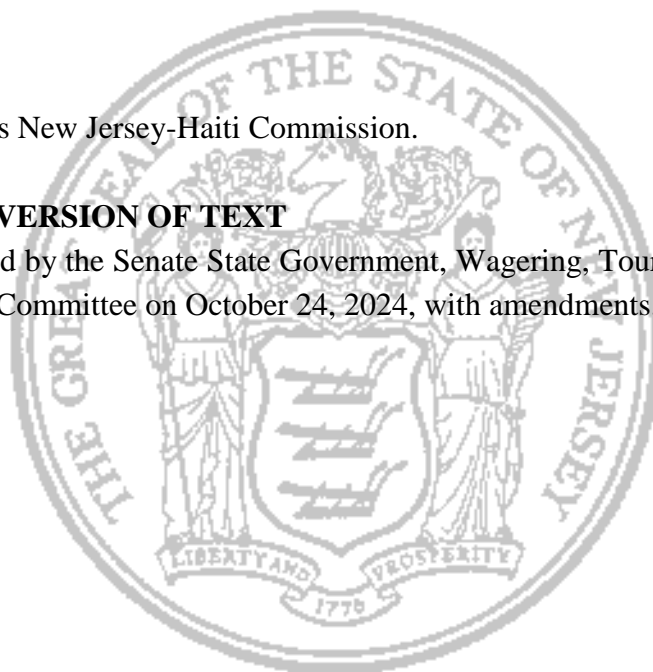
**Senators Gopal, Johnson, Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson,  
Peterpaul, Donlon, Morales and Bagolie**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey-Haiti Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee on October 24, 2024, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)**

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey-Haiti Commission and  
2 supplementing chapter 18A of Title 52.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 The State of New Jersey recognizes its historical ties with Haiti  
9 and economic concerns shared by its Haitian-American residents  
10 regarding the Republic of Haiti;

11 Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural  
12 disasters, political instability, and socio-economic hardships;

13 It is imperative for New Jersey to recognize that it has the 4th  
14 largest Haitian population in the United States; and

15 The State should take concrete steps to address the economic  
16 challenges within its Haitian-American community and should work  
17 diligently to foster a mutual and beneficial relationship with Haiti.

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19 2. a. The New Jersey-Haiti Commission is hereby created and  
20 established in the Department of State. The commission shall advise  
21 the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic and  
22 cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be  
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24 American community.

25 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the  
26 Secretary of State, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson, and  
27 12 public members who shall represent a variety of different  
28 professional sectors across the State, including non-profit  
29 organizations serving the Haitian community. The public members  
30 shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>**by the Governor**<sup>1</sup> as follows: <sup>1</sup>**four** six public  
31 members shall be appointed by the Governor; <sup>1</sup>two<sup>1</sup> public members  
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33 President of the Senate, <sup>1</sup>**four** one<sup>1</sup> public <sup>1</sup>**members** member<sup>1</sup>  
34 shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the recommendation of the  
35 Minority Leader of the Senate; <sup>1</sup>**four** two<sup>1</sup> public members shall be  
36 appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the recommendation of the Speaker  
37 of the General Assembly, and <sup>1</sup>**four** one<sup>1</sup> public <sup>1</sup>**members**  
38 member<sup>1</sup> shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the  
39 recommendation of the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

40 c. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term  
41 of three years, except that of the members first appointed, four shall be  
42 appointed to a term of one year, four shall be appointed to a term of  
43 two years, and four shall be appointed to a term of three years, as  
44 determined by the Governor. Public members shall be eligible for

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SSG committee amendments adopted October 24, 2024.

1 reappointment. The public members shall serve until their successors  
2 are appointed and qualified, and the term of the successor of any  
3 incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of the term of that  
4 incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than the expiration of the term  
5 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for  
6 the unexpired term only.

7 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
8 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary  
9 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits  
10 of funds appropriated for that purpose.

11 e. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing on a  
12 quarterly basis and shall consult with stakeholders, experts, and  
13 members of the public to gather information related to the current  
14 economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in New  
15 Jersey and on the economic and cultural links between the State and  
16 Haiti.

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19 conduct a comprehensive review of historical ties between New  
20 Jersey and Haiti, including existing cultural exchanges, economic  
21 interactions, and the number of Haitians settling in New Jersey, as  
22 well as their patterns of migration to the State;

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24 demographic trends, and economic indicators, to assess the current  
25 state of affairs in the Haitian-American community as related to  
26 civic engagement and their political and economic impacts in New  
27 Jersey, and how the State can assist the Haitian-American  
28 community within the State;

29 analyze ways for New Jersey to establish a strong partnership  
30 and bilateral cooperation with Haiti, including but not limited to,  
31 providing logistical and technical assistance related to access to  
32 healthcare, education, and access to a fair and impartial judicial  
33 system;

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36 promotions, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges; and

37 recommend policy initiatives, legislation, and programs to  
38 support economic development efforts in the Haitian-American  
39 community in this State and to support economic and cultural links  
40 in Haiti.

41 b. The commission may authorize studies, reports, and research  
42 projects to further its objectives and consult with State agencies, the  
43 Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
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45 c. The commission shall report its findings and  
46 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to  
47 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than one year  
48 after the date the commission first meets and annually thereafter.

**S3199 [1R] TIMBERLAKE, MCKNIGHT**

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1       d. The commission, through the Department of State, may  
2 solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available  
3 for the commission's purposes by any governmental, public,  
4 private, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity, including funds that are  
5 made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or  
6 program.

7

8       4. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY OVERSIGHT, REFORM AND FEDERAL  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3199**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 20, 2025

The Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3199 (1R).

The bill establishes the New Jersey-Haiti Commission in the Department of State. The commission shall advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-American community.

The commission will have 13 members. The Secretary of State, will serve as chairperson, and 12 members of the public will be appointed to represent a variety of different professional sectors across the State, including non-profit organizations in serving the Haitian community. The commission will hold one or more meetings on a quarterly basis.

The commission may conduct studies, reports, and research projects to further its objectives, and consult with State agencies, the Haitian government, and international and local organizations working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti. The commission will make recommendations for policies, legislation, and initiatives related to the economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in the State and identify areas for economic collaboration and partnership between New Jersey and Haiti. The commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature annually.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3199 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4343 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 3199**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: OCTOBER 24, 2024

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3199.

As amended by the committee, the bill establishes the New Jersey-Haiti Commission in the Department of State. The commission shall advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-American community.

The commission will have 13 members. The Secretary of State, will serve as chairperson, and 12 members of the public will be appointed to represent a variety of different professional sectors across the State, including non-profit organizations in serving the Haitian community. The commission will hold one or more meetings on a quarterly basis.

The commission may conduct studies, reports, and research projects to further its objectives, and consult with State agencies, the Haitian government, and international and local organizations working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti. The commission will make recommendations for policies, legislation, and initiatives related to the economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in the State and identify areas for economic collaboration and partnership between New Jersey and Haiti. The commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature annually.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to change the membership of the commission. The membership will consist of 13 members including the Secretary of State, 6 public members appointed directly by the Governor, 2 public members appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the President of the Senate, 1 public member appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate, 2 public members appointed by the Governor at

the recommendation of the Speaker of the House, and 1 public member appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4343**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 10, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblyman MICHAEL VENEZIA**

**District 34 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Peterpaul, Donlon and Morales**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey-Haiti Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2025)**

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey-Haiti Commission and  
2 supplementing chapter 18A of Title 52.

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

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10 regarding the Republic of Haiti;

11 Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural  
12 disasters, political instability, and socio-economic hardships;

13 It is imperative for New Jersey to recognize that it has the 4th  
14 largest Haitian population in the United States; and

15 The State should take concrete steps to address the economic  
16 challenges within its Haitian-American community and should work  
17 diligently to foster a mutual and beneficial relationship with Haiti.

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19 2. a. The New Jersey-Haiti Commission is hereby created and  
20 established in the Department of State. The commission shall  
21 advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic  
22 and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may  
23 be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's  
24 Haitian-American community.

25 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the  
26 Secretary of State, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson,  
27 and 12 public members who shall represent a variety of different  
28 professional sectors across the State, including non-profit  
29 organizations serving the Haitian community. The public members  
30 shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: four public members  
31 shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the President of the  
32 Senate, four public members shall be appointed upon the  
33 recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate; four public  
34 members shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the  
35 Speaker of the General Assembly, and four public members shall be  
36 appointed upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the  
37 General Assembly.

38 c. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a  
39 term of three years, except that of the members first appointed, four  
40 shall be appointed to a term of one year, four shall be appointed to a  
41 term of two years, and four shall be appointed to a term of three  
42 years, as determined by the Governor. Public members shall be  
43 eligible for reappointment. The public members shall serve until  
44 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the  
45 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration  
46 of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than the  
47 expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the  
48 original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

1 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
2 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all  
3 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties  
4 within the limits of funds appropriated for that purpose.

5 e. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing on a  
6 quarterly basis and shall consult with stakeholders, experts, and  
7 members of the public to gather information related to the current  
8 economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in New  
9 Jersey and on the economic and cultural links between the State and  
10 Haiti.

11  
12 3. a. The commission shall:

13 conduct a comprehensive review of historical ties between New  
14 Jersey and Haiti, including existing cultural exchanges, economic  
15 interactions, and the number of Haitians settling in New Jersey, as  
16 well as their patterns of migration to the State;

17 collect and analyze quantitative data, including census numbers,  
18 demographic trends, and economic indicators, to assess the current  
19 state of affairs in the Haitian-American community as related to  
20 civic engagement and their political and economic impacts in New  
21 Jersey, and how the State can assist the Haitian-American  
22 community within the State;

23 analyze ways for New Jersey to establish a strong partnership  
24 and bilateral cooperation with Haiti, including but not limited to,  
25 providing logistical and technical assistance related to access to  
26 healthcare, education, and access to a fair and impartial judicial  
27 system;

28 identify areas for economic collaboration, and partnership  
29 between New Jersey and Haiti, including but not limited to, trade  
30 promotions, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges; and

31 recommend policy initiatives, legislation, and programs to  
32 support economic development efforts in the Haitian-American  
33 community in this State and to support economic and cultural links  
34 in Haiti.

35 b. The commission may authorize studies, reports, and research  
36 projects to further its objectives and consult with State agencies, the  
37 Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
38 working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.

39 c. The commission shall report its findings and  
40 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to  
41 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than one year  
42 after the date the commission first meets and annually thereafter.

43 d. The commission, through the Department of State, may  
44 solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available  
45 for the commission's purposes by any governmental, public,  
46 private, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity, including funds that are  
47 made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or  
48 program.

1       4. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6       This bill establishes the New Jersey-Haiti Commission in the  
7 Department of State. The commission shall advise the Governor  
8 and Legislature on ways to improve economic and cultural links  
9 between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be taken to  
10 address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-  
11 American community.

12       The commission will have 13 members. The Secretary of State,  
13 will serve as chairperson, and 12 members of the public will be  
14 appointed to represent a variety of different professional sectors  
15 across the State, including non-profit organizations in serving the  
16 Haitian community. The commission will hold one or more  
17 meetings on a quarterly basis.

18       The commission may conduct studies, reports, and research  
19 projects to further its objectives, and consult with State agencies,  
20 the Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
21 working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.  
22 The commission will make recommendations for policies,  
23 legislation, and initiatives related to the economic challenges of the  
24 Haitian-American community in the State and identify areas for  
25 economic collaboration and partnership between New Jersey and  
26 Haiti. The commission will report its findings and  
27 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature annually.

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4343**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 10, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblyman MICHAEL VENEZIA**

**District 34 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

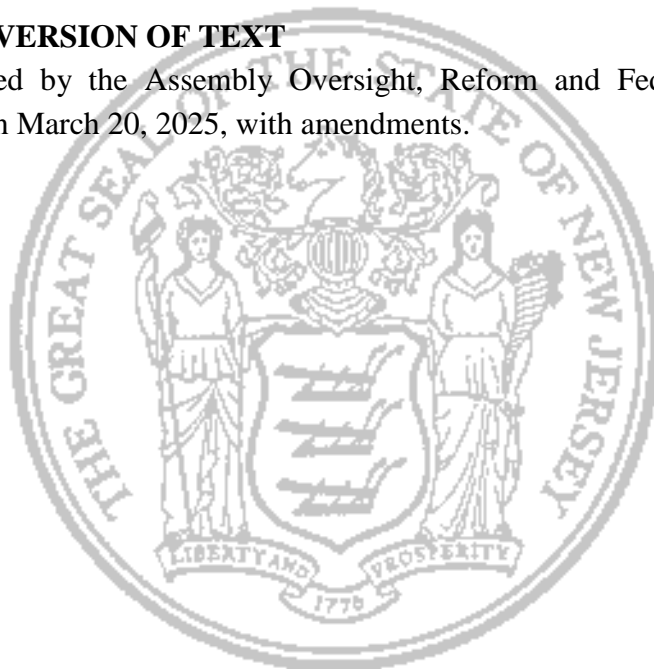
**Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Peterpaul, Donlon, Morales  
and Bagolie**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey-Haiti Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations  
Committee on March 20, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)**

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey-Haiti Commission and  
2 supplementing chapter 18A of Title 52.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 The State of New Jersey recognizes its historical ties with Haiti  
9 and economic concerns shared by its Haitian-American residents  
10 regarding the Republic of Haiti;

11 Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural  
12 disasters, political instability, and socio-economic hardships;

13 It is imperative for New Jersey to recognize that it has the 4th  
14 largest Haitian population in the United States; and

15 The State should take concrete steps to address the economic  
16 challenges within its Haitian-American community and should work  
17 diligently to foster a mutual and beneficial relationship with Haiti.

18

19 2. a. The New Jersey-Haiti Commission is hereby created and  
20 established in the Department of State. The commission shall  
21 advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic  
22 and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may  
23 be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's  
24 Haitian-American community.

25 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the  
26 Secretary of State, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson,  
27 and 12 public members who shall represent a variety of different  
28 professional sectors across the State, including non-profit  
29 organizations serving the Haitian community. The public members  
30 shall be appointed <sup>1</sup>**by the Governor**<sup>1</sup> as follows: <sup>1</sup>**four**<sup>1</sup> six  
31 public members shall be appointed by the Governor; two<sup>1</sup> public  
32 members shall be appointed by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the  
33 recommendation of the President of the Senate, <sup>1</sup>**four**<sup>1</sup> one<sup>1</sup> public  
34 <sup>1</sup>**members**<sup>1</sup> member<sup>1</sup> shall be appointed by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon  
35 the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate; <sup>1</sup>**four**<sup>1</sup>  
36 two<sup>1</sup> public members shall be appointed by the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the  
37 recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and  
38 <sup>1</sup>**four**<sup>1</sup> one<sup>1</sup> public <sup>1</sup>**members**<sup>1</sup> member<sup>1</sup> shall be appointed by  
39 the Governor<sup>1</sup> upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of  
40 the General Assembly.

41 c. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term  
42 of three years, except that of the members first appointed, four shall  
43 be appointed to a term of one year, four shall be appointed to a term  
44 of two years, and four shall be appointed to a term of three years, as

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AOF committee amendments adopted March 20, 2025.

1 determined by the Governor. Public members shall be eligible for  
2 reappointment. The public members shall serve until their  
3 successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the  
4 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration  
5 of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than the  
6 expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the  
7 original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

8 d. The members of the commission shall serve without  
9 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all  
10 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties  
11 within the limits of funds appropriated for that purpose.

12 e. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing on a  
13 quarterly basis and shall consult with stakeholders, experts, and  
14 members of the public to gather information related to the current  
15 economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in New  
16 Jersey and on the economic and cultural links between the State and  
17 Haiti.

18

19 3. a. The commission shall:

20 conduct a comprehensive review of historical ties between New  
21 Jersey and Haiti, including existing cultural exchanges, economic  
22 interactions, and the number of Haitians settling in New Jersey, as  
23 well as their patterns of migration to the State;

24 collect and analyze quantitative data, including census numbers,  
25 demographic trends, and economic indicators, to assess the current  
26 state of affairs in the Haitian-American community as related to  
27 civic engagement and their political and economic impacts in New  
28 Jersey, and how the State can assist the Haitian-American  
29 community within the State;

30 analyze ways for New Jersey to establish a strong partnership  
31 and bilateral cooperation with Haiti, including but not limited to,  
32 providing logistical and technical assistance related to access to  
33 healthcare, education, and access to a fair and impartial judicial  
34 system;

35 identify areas for economic collaboration, and partnership  
36 between New Jersey and Haiti, including but not limited to, trade  
37 promotions, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges; and

38 recommend policy initiatives, legislation, and programs to  
39 support economic development efforts in the Haitian-American  
40 community in this State and to support economic and cultural links  
41 in Haiti.

42 b. The commission may authorize studies, reports, and research  
43 projects to further its objectives and consult with State agencies, the  
44 Haitian government, and international and local organizations  
45 working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti.

46 c. The commission shall report its findings and  
47 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to

1 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than one year  
2 after the date the commission first meets and annually thereafter.

3 d. The commission, through the Department of State, may  
4 solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available  
5 for the commission's purposes by any governmental, public,  
6 private, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity, including funds that are  
7 made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or  
8 program.

9  
10 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY OVERSIGHT, REFORM AND FEDERAL  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4343**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 20, 2025

The Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4343.

As amended by the committee, the bill establishes the New Jersey-Haiti Commission in the Department of State. The commission shall advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the State and Haiti and on steps that may be taken to address the economic challenges within the State's Haitian-American community.

The commission will have 13 members. The Secretary of State, will serve as chairperson, and 12 members of the public will be appointed to represent a variety of different professional sectors across the State, including non-profit organizations serving the Haitian community. The commission will hold one or more meetings on a quarterly basis.

The commission may conduct studies, reports, and research projects to further its objectives, and consult with State agencies, the Haitian government, and international and local organizations working on political, economic, and cultural issues related to Haiti. The commission will make recommendations for policies, legislation, and initiatives related to the economic challenges of the Haitian-American community in the State and identify areas for economic collaboration and partnership between New Jersey and Haiti. The commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature annually.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4343 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3199 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to change the membership of the commission. The membership will consist of 13 members including the Secretary of State, six public members appointed directly by the Governor, two public members appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the President of the Senate, one public member appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate, two public members appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and one public member appointed by the Governor at the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 05/9/2025

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

**S-3199/A-4343 (Timberlake, McKnight/Speight, Atkins, Venezia)** - Establishes New Jersey-Haiti Commission

**S-3353/A-4501 (Turner, McKnight/Sauickie, Spearman)** - Directs State Agriculture Development Committee to adopt agricultural management practice for housing resident farm employees on commercial farms, and establishes such housing as eligible for “Right to Farm” protection

**S-3525/A-4893 (Pou, McKnight/McCoy, Speight, Danielsen)** - Requires financial institutions to allow mortgagors to make biweekly and semi-monthly payments and payments to mortgage principal

**SJR-102/AJR-167 (Turner/Verrelli, Reynolds-Jackson)** - Designates May 17 of each year as “Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day” in New Jersey

**SJR-121/AJR-181 (Singleton/Swain, Hutchison, Miller)** - Designates May 15 of each year as “Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Awareness Day” in New Jersey

Posted on: May 15, 2025

## **Governor Murphy Signs Timberlake, Speight Bill Establishing New Jersey-Haiti Commission Into Law**

**TRENTON** – In the wake of increasingly xenophobic political rhetoric targeting Haitian immigrants, legislation sponsored by Senator Britnee Timberlake (D-Essex) to establish a New Jersey-Haiti Commission has been signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy.



The bill, S-3199, comes at a critical moment for Haitian Americans in New Jersey, many of whom are reeling from false and inflammatory claims made by political leaders on the national stage. The Commission will serve as a dedicated advisory body to the Governor and Legislature, working to strengthen economic and cultural ties between New Jersey and Haiti while directly addressing the challenges facing Haitian communities across the state. The commission will enhance economic and cultural ties between New Jersey and Haiti while providing vital policy guidance to support the Haitian-American community.

“This commission sends a powerful message: that New Jersey sees its Haitian-American residents, values their contributions, and will continue to stand against bigotry and exclusion,” Timberlake added. “At a time when divisive rhetoric is fueling hostility toward immigrants, this law is more important than ever. It demonstrates New Jersey’s commitment to equity, dignity, and standing against the political scapegoating of Haitian Americans. The Haitian community deserves not only safety and dignity, but the chance to thrive and contribute to our state's cultural and economic fabric.”

The legislation follows a firestorm sparked by widely discredited claims targeting Haitian immigrants and asylum seekers, remarks that have drawn condemnation from officials and advocates nationwide. With New Jersey home to one of the largest Haitian-American populations in the U.S., particularly in Essex and Union counties, the law aims to counter the toxic climate with meaningful engagement, investment, and representation. It also aims to uplift and address the unique challenges faced by Haitian Americans across the state.

This bill is not just a response to hate, it's a declaration of belonging," said Assemblywoman Shanique Speight (D-Essex/Hudson). "Haitian Americans are part of New Jersey's fabric, and this commission ensures their voices are heard at the highest levels of state government. By providing an official avenue of policy input, cultural exchange, and economic cooperation, we are investing in a more united, more secure future where all communities can thrive, without discrimination and fear."

According to U.S. Census data, more than 40,000 Haitian Americans reside in New Jersey, with substantial community concentrations in Irvington, Orange, East Orange, and Newark, and growing populations in Elizabeth, Bayonne, Jersey City, and throughout Essex and Union Counties.

The commission will include 13 members, chaired by the Secretary of State and composed of public members with professional experience in diplomacy, international development, healthcare, education, business, and community advocacy. The commission may consult with state agencies, the Haitian government, and non-governmental organizations to shape policy recommendations and identify collaborative initiatives.