



**TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:** No

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY:** No

**SENATE:** Yes

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

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

**LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 48, *approved April 22, 2025*  
Assembly, No. 5067 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
2 Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local  
10 governing **body** bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough,  
11 and South Plainfield Borough, respectively, in Middlesex County,  
12 there is established the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
13 Commission. The commission shall consist of nine members,  
14 appointed and qualified as follows, provided however, that no more  
15 than five members shall be of the same political party and no more  
16 than three members shall be appointed from any one municipality:

17 (1) Two residents of Edison Township, appointed by the  
18 governing body of the municipality;

19 (2) Two residents of Metuchen Borough, appointed by the  
20 governing body of the municipality;

21 (3) Two residents of South Plainfield Borough, appointed by the  
22 governing body of the municipality;

23 (4) Two elected officials from Middlesex County, appointed by  
24 agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
25 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough; and

26 (5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association,  
27 appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison  
28 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough.

29 b. Each member shall serve for a term of five years. Each  
30 member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a  
31 successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy  
32 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for  
33 the unexpired term only. Each municipal appointing authority shall  
34 appoint one alternate member <sup>1</sup>for the regular members appointed  
35 by the municipal appointing authority <sup>1</sup> to act in the absence or  
36 disability of the regular <sup>1</sup>member members appointed thereby <sup>1</sup>.  
37 An alternate member shall have the same qualifications as a regular  
38 member appointed by the appointing authority and shall be  
39 appointed for a term of five years. <sup>1</sup>Alternate members <sup>1</sup> Each  
40 alternate member <sup>1</sup> may participate in <sup>1</sup>discussions of <sup>1</sup> the

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 AEN committee amendments adopted January 27, 2025.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted February 10, 2025.

1 'commission's' proceedings', and in any discussions related  
2 thereto,' but shall 'be authorized to' vote only in the absence or  
3 disability of a '[voting] regular' member '[. A] who has been  
4 appointed by the same municipal appointing authority. No  
5 commission' vote shall '[not]' be delayed in order '[that] to  
6 enable' a '[voting] regular' member '[may] to' vote', 'instead of  
7 an alternate member.

8 c. Any member of the commission may be removed by  
9 adoption of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison  
10 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for  
11 cause after a public hearing.

12 d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to  
13 an oath to perform the duties of the office faithfully, impartially,  
14 and justly to the best of their ability.

15 e. The members of the commission shall serve without  
16 compensation, but the commission may reimburse its members for  
17 necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

18 f. The commission shall select from its members a chairperson  
19 and vice-chairperson, and may employ an executive director, who  
20 may also serve as secretary, and a treasurer. The commission may  
21 also appoint, retain and employ, without regard to the provisions of  
22 Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, such officers,  
23 agents, employees and experts as it may require, and it shall  
24 determine their qualifications, terms of office, duties, services and  
25 compensation. The local governing bodies may provide  
26 administrative support to the commission.

27 g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the  
28 members thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the  
29 total authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a  
30 quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions  
31 and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof  
32 by the affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized  
33 membership; provided, however, that the commission may  
34 designate one or more of its agents or employees to exercise such  
35 administrative functions, powers, and duties, as it may deem proper,  
36 under its supervision and control. No vacancy in the membership of  
37 the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the  
38 rights and perform all the duties of the commission. <sup>2</sup>For the  
39 purposes of this subsection, the "total authorized membership" of  
40 the commission shall include the regular members appointed  
41 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, provided that in the  
42 absence or disability of a regular member, an alternate member  
43 authorized to vote in that regular member's stead shall be counted  
44 within the total authorized membership in the regular member's  
45 stead for the duration of the regular member's absence or  
46 disability.<sup>2</sup>

1 h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission  
2 shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any  
3 project, any part of a project area, or an application for  
4 development, other than a residence, or in any contract, sale,  
5 purchase, lease, or transfer of real or personal property located  
6 within the boundaries of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

7 (1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention  
8 of this subsection is voidable.

9 (2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
10 subsection shall forfeit <sup>2</sup>the person's<sup>2</sup> office or employment.

11 (cf: P.L.2021, c.195, s.4)

12

13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

14

15

16

17

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III  
Wildlife Preservation Commission.

## CHAPTER 48

AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

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

1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to read as follows:

C.40:55D-88.4 Authorizing resolution.

4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough, respectively, in Middlesex County, there is established the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission. The commission shall consist of nine members appointed and qualified as follows, provided, however, that no more than five members shall be of the same political party and no more than three members shall be appointed from any one municipality:

(1) Two residents of Edison Township, appointed by the governing body of the municipality;

(2) Two residents of Metuchen Borough, appointed by the governing body of the municipality;

(3) Two residents of South Plainfield Borough, appointed by the governing body of the municipality;

(4) Two elected officials from Middlesex County, appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough; and

(5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association, appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough.

b. Each member shall serve for a term of five years. Each member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired term only. Each municipal appointing authority shall appoint one alternate member to act in the absence or disability of the regular members appointed thereby. An alternate member shall have the same qualifications as a regular member appointed by the appointing authority and shall be appointed for a term of five years. Each alternate member may participate in the commission's proceedings, and in any discussions related thereto, but shall be authorized to vote only in the absence or disability of a regular member who has been appointed by the same municipal appointing authority. No commission vote shall be delayed in order to enable a regular member to vote, instead of an alternate member.

c. Any member of the commission may be removed by adoption of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for cause after a public hearing.

d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to an oath to perform the duties of the office faithfully, impartially, and justly to the best of their ability.

e. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but the commission may reimburse its members for necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

f. The commission shall select from its members a chairperson and vice-chairperson, and may employ an executive director, who may also serve as secretary, and a treasurer. The commission may also appoint, retain, and employ, without regard to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, such officers, agents, employees, and experts as it may require, and it shall determine their qualifications, terms of office, duties, services,

and compensation. The local governing bodies may provide administrative support to the commission.

g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the members thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the total authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized membership, provided, however, that the commission may designate one or more of its agents or employees to exercise such administrative functions, powers, and duties, as it may deem proper, under its supervision and control. No vacancy in the membership of the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the commission. For the purposes of this subsection, the “total authorized membership” of the commission shall include the regular members appointed pursuant to subsection a. of this section, provided that in the absence or disability of a regular member, an alternate member authorized to vote in that regular member’s stead shall be counted within the total authorized membership in the regular member’s stead for the duration of the regular member’s absence or disability.

h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any project, any part of a project area, or an application for development, other than a residence, or in any contract, sale, purchase, lease, or transfer of real or personal property located within the boundaries of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

(1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention of this subsection is voidable.

(2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this subsection shall forfeit the person’s office or employment.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 22, 2025.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5067

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2024)

A5067 KARABINCHAK, STANLEY

2

1 AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
2 Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local  
10 governing **body** bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough,  
11 and South Plainfield Borough, respectively, in Middlesex County,  
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13 Commission. The commission shall consist of nine members,  
14 appointed and qualified as follows, provided however, that no more  
15 than five members shall be of the same political party and no more  
16 than three members shall be appointed from any one municipality:

17 (1) Two residents of Edison Township, appointed by the  
18 governing body of the municipality;

19 (2) Two residents of Metuchen Borough, appointed by the  
20 governing body of the municipality;

21 (3) Two residents of South Plainfield Borough, appointed by the  
22 governing body of the municipality;

23 (4) Two elected officials from Middlesex County, appointed by  
24 agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
25 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough; and

26 (5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association,  
27 appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison  
28 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough.

29 b. Each member shall serve for a term of five years. Each  
30 member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a  
31 successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy  
32 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for  
33 the unexpired term only. Each municipal appointing authority shall  
34 appoint one alternate member for the regular members appointed by  
35 the municipal appointing authority to act in the absence or disability  
36 of the regular member. An alternate member shall have the same  
37 qualifications as a regular member appointed by the appointing  
38 authority and shall be appointed for a term of five years. Alternate  
39 members may participate in discussions of the proceedings but shall  
40 vote only in the absence or disability of a voting member. A vote  
41 shall not be delayed in order that a voting member may vote instead  
42 of an alternate member.

43 c. Any member of the commission may be removed by  
44 adoption of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison

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.

1 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for  
2 cause after a public hearing.

3 d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to  
4 an oath to perform the duties of the office faithfully, impartially,  
5 and justly to the best of their ability.

6 e. The members of the commission shall serve without  
7 compensation, but the commission may reimburse its members for  
8 necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

9 f. The commission shall select from its members a chairperson  
10 and vice-chairperson, and may employ an executive director, who  
11 may also serve as secretary, and a treasurer. The commission may  
12 also appoint, retain and employ, without regard to the provisions of  
13 Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, such officers,  
14 agents, employees and experts as it may require, and it shall  
15 determine their qualifications, terms of office, duties, services and  
16 compensation. The local governing bodies may provide  
17 administrative support to the commission.

18 g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the  
19 members thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the  
20 total authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a  
21 quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions  
22 and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof  
23 by the affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized  
24 membership; provided, however, that the commission may  
25 designate one or more of its agents or employees to exercise such  
26 administrative functions, powers, and duties, as it may deem proper,  
27 under its supervision and control. No vacancy in the membership of  
28 the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the  
29 rights and perform all the duties of the commission.

30 h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission  
31 shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any  
32 project, any part of a project area, or an application for  
33 development, other than a residence, or in any contract, sale,  
34 purchase, lease, or transfer of real or personal property located  
35 within the boundaries of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

36 (1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention  
37 of this subsection is voidable.

38 (2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
39 subsection shall forfeit office or employment.

40 (cf: P.L.2021, c.195, s.4)

41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

43

44

45

#### STATEMENT

46

47 This bill requires each appointing authority of the Peter J. Barnes  
48 III Wildlife Preservation Commission to appoint one alternate

**A5067 KARABINCHAK, STANLEY**

4

1 member. Alternate members would each serve a term of five years  
2 and may participate in discussions of the proceedings but are  
3 authorized to vote only in the absence or disability of a voting  
4 member.

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5067**

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

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee on January 27, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
2 Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local  
10 governing **[body]** bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough,  
11 and South Plainfield Borough, respectively, in Middlesex County,  
12 there is established the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
13 Commission. The commission shall consist of nine members,  
14 appointed and qualified as follows, provided however, that no more  
15 than five members shall be of the same political party and no more  
16 than three members shall be appointed from any one municipality:

17 (1) Two residents of Edison Township, appointed by the governing  
18 body of the municipality;

19 (2) Two residents of Metuchen Borough, appointed by the  
20 governing body of the municipality;

21 (3) Two residents of South Plainfield Borough, appointed by the  
22 governing body of the municipality;

23 (4) Two elected officials from Middlesex County, appointed by  
24 agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
25 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough; and

26 (5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association,  
27 appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison  
28 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough.

29 b. Each member shall serve for a term of five years. Each  
30 member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a  
31 successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy shall  
32 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the  
33 unexpired term only. Each municipal appointing authority shall  
34 appoint one alternate member<sup>1</sup> **[for the regular members appointed by**  
35 the municipal appointing authority]<sup>1</sup> to act in the absence or disability  
36 of the regular<sup>1</sup> **[member]** members appointed thereby<sup>1</sup>. An alternate  
37 member shall have the same qualifications as a regular member  
38 appointed by the appointing authority and shall be appointed for a term  
39 of five years.<sup>1</sup> **[Alternate members]** Each alternate member<sup>1</sup> may  
40 participate in<sup>1</sup> **[discussions of]** the<sup>1</sup> commission's<sup>1</sup> proceedings<sup>1</sup>,  
41 and in any discussions related thereto,<sup>1</sup> but shall<sup>1</sup> be authorized to<sup>1</sup>  
42 vote only in the absence or disability of a voting member<sup>1</sup> **[. A]** who  
43 has been appointed by the same municipal appointing authority. No

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 AEN committee amendments adopted January 27, 2025.

1 commission<sup>1</sup> vote shall ~~1~~ **1** ~~be delayed in order~~ **1** ~~that~~ to enable<sup>1</sup>  
2 a voting member ~~1~~ **1** ~~to~~ vote<sup>1,1</sup> instead of an alternate member.

3 c. Any member of the commission may be removed by adoption  
4 of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
5 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for cause after a  
6 public hearing.

7 d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to an  
8 oath to perform the duties of the office faithfully, impartially, and  
9 justly to the best of their ability.

10 e. The members of the commission shall serve without  
11 compensation, but the commission may reimburse its members for  
12 necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

13 f. The commission shall select from its members a chairperson  
14 and vice-chairperson, and may employ an executive director, who may  
15 also serve as secretary, and a treasurer. The commission may also  
16 appoint, retain and employ, without regard to the provisions of Title  
17 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, such officers, agents,  
18 employees and experts as it may require, and it shall determine their  
19 qualifications, terms of office, duties, services and compensation. The  
20 local governing bodies may provide administrative support to the  
21 commission.

22 g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the members  
23 thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the total  
24 authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum at  
25 any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and  
26 resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof by the  
27 affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized membership;  
28 provided, however, that the commission may designate one or more of  
29 its agents or employees to exercise such administrative functions,  
30 powers, and duties, as it may deem proper, under its supervision and  
31 control. No vacancy in the membership of the commission shall  
32 impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all  
33 the duties of the commission.

34 h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission  
35 shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any  
36 project, any part of a project area, or an application for development,  
37 other than a residence, or in any contract, sale, purchase, lease, or  
38 transfer of real or personal property located within the boundaries of  
39 the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

40 (1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention of  
41 this subsection is voidable.

42 (2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
43 subsection shall forfeit office or employment.

44 (cf: P.L.2021, c.195, s.4)

45

46 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5067**

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

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

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

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Johnson and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on February 10, 2025, with amendments.



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

1 AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
2 Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

3

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

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7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to  
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9 4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local  
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22 governing body of the municipality;

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24 agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
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26 (5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association,  
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30 member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a  
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40 alternate member <sup>1</sup>may participate in <sup>1</sup>discussions of <sup>1</sup>the  
41 commission's <sup>1</sup>proceedings <sup>1</sup>, and in any discussions related  
42 thereto, <sup>1</sup> but shall <sup>1</sup>be authorized to <sup>1</sup>vote only in the absence or  
43 disability of a <sup>2</sup>voting <sup>2</sup>regular <sup>2</sup>member <sup>1</sup>. A <sup>1</sup>who has been  
44 appointed by the same municipal appointing authority. No

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

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<sup>2</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted February 10, 2025.

1 commission<sup>1</sup> vote shall <sup>1</sup>["not"]<sup>1</sup> be delayed in order <sup>1</sup>["that"] to  
2 enable<sup>1</sup> a <sup>2</sup>["voting"] regular<sup>2</sup> member <sup>1</sup>["may"] to<sup>1</sup> vote<sup>1</sup>.<sup>1</sup> instead of  
3 an alternate member.

4 c. Any member of the commission may be removed by  
5 adoption of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison  
6 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for  
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8 d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to  
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17 also appoint, retain and employ, without regard to the provisions of  
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21 compensation. The local governing bodies may provide  
22 administrative support to the commission.

23 g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the  
24 members thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the  
25 total authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a  
26 quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions  
27 and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof  
28 by the affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized  
29 membership; provided, however, that the commission may  
30 designate one or more of its agents or employees to exercise such  
31 administrative functions, powers, and duties, as it may deem proper,  
32 under its supervision and control. No vacancy in the membership of  
33 the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the  
34 rights and perform all the duties of the commission. <sup>2</sup>For the  
35 purposes of this subsection, the "total authorized membership" of  
36 the commission shall include the regular members appointed  
37 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, provided that in the  
38 absence or disability of a regular member, an alternate member  
39 authorized to vote in that regular member's stead shall be counted  
40 within the total authorized membership in the regular member's  
41 stead for the duration of the regular member's absence or  
42 disability.<sup>2</sup>

43 h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission  
44 shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any  
45 project, any part of a project area, or an application for  
46 development, other than a residence, or in any contract, sale,  
47 purchase, lease, or transfer of real or personal property located  
48 within the boundaries of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

1       (1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention  
2 of this subsection is voidable.

3       (2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
4 subsection shall forfeit <sup>2</sup>the person's<sup>2</sup> office or employment.  
5 (cf: P.L.2021, c.195, s.4)

6

7       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND  
SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 5067**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 27, 2025

The Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably, and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 5067.

This bill, as amended, would require each appointing authority of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission to appoint one alternate member to serve in the absence or disability of the regular members appointed thereby. Each alternate member would be appointed to serve a term of five years and may participate in the commission's proceedings, and in any discussions related thereto, but would be authorized to vote only in the absence or disability of a regular voting member who has been appointed by the same appointing authority.

The bill would further specify that a commission vote may not be delayed for the purpose of enabling a regular voting member to vote, instead of an alternate member appointed pursuant to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill:

(1) to clarify that the bill requires the appointment of a single alternate member, by each municipal appointment authority, who will be authorized to serve on the commission in the absence or disability of a regular voting member appointed by the same authority; and

(2) to incorporate other technical and clarifying changes.

# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 5067

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5067 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires each appointing authority of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission to appoint one alternate member to serve in the absence or disability of the regular members appointed thereby. Each alternate member is to be appointed to serve a term of five years and may participate in the commission's proceedings, and in any discussions related thereto, but is authorized to vote only in the absence or disability of a regular member who has been appointed by the same appointing authority.

The bill further specifies that a commission vote may not be delayed for the purpose of enabling a regular voting member to vote, instead of an alternate member appointed pursuant to the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5067 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3918, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) clarify that the "total authorized membership" of the commission includes the regular members, provided that in the absence or disability of a regular member, an alternate member authorized to vote in that regular member's stead is to be counted within the total authorized membership in the regular member's stead for the duration of the regular member's absence or disability; and

(2) incorporate other technical and clarifying changes.

**SENATE, No. 3918**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

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

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Johnson and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2025)**

1 AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
2 Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local  
10 governing **[body]** bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough,  
11 and South Plainfield Borough, respectively, in Middlesex County,  
12 there is established the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
13 Commission. The commission shall consist of nine members,  
14 appointed and qualified as follows, provided however, that no more  
15 than five members shall be of the same political party and no more  
16 than three members shall be appointed from any one municipality:

17 (1) Two residents of Edison Township, appointed by the  
18 governing body of the municipality;

19 (2) Two residents of Metuchen Borough, appointed by the  
20 governing body of the municipality;

21 (3) Two residents of South Plainfield Borough, appointed by the  
22 governing body of the municipality;

23 (4) Two elected officials from Middlesex County, appointed by  
24 agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
25 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough; and

26 (5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association,  
27 appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison  
28 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough.

29 b. Each member shall serve for a term of five years. Each  
30 member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a  
31 successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy  
32 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for  
33 the unexpired term only. Each municipal appointing authority shall  
34 appoint one alternate member for the regular members appointed by  
35 the municipal appointing authority to act in the absence or disability  
36 of the regular member. An alternate member shall have the same  
37 qualifications as a regular member appointed by the appointing  
38 authority and shall be appointed for a term of five years. Alternate  
39 members may participate in discussions of the proceedings but shall  
40 vote only in the absence or disability of a voting member. A vote  
41 shall not be delayed in order that a voting member may vote instead  
42 of an alternate member.

43 c. Any member of the commission may be removed by  
44 adoption of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison  
45 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for  
46 cause after a public hearing.

**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.

1 d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to  
2 an oath to perform the duties of the office faithfully, impartially,  
3 and justly to the best of their ability.

4 e. The members of the commission shall serve without  
5 compensation, but the commission may reimburse its members for  
6 necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

7 f. The commission shall select from its members a chairperson  
8 and vice-chairperson, and may employ an executive director, who  
9 may also serve as secretary, and a treasurer. The commission may  
10 also appoint, retain and employ, without regard to the provisions of  
11 Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, such officers,  
12 agents, employees and experts as it may require, and it shall  
13 determine their qualifications, terms of office, duties, services and  
14 compensation. The local governing bodies may provide  
15 administrative support to the commission.

16 g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the  
17 members thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the  
18 total authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a  
19 quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions  
20 and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof  
21 by the affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized  
22 membership; provided, however, that the commission may  
23 designate one or more of its agents or employees to exercise such  
24 administrative functions, powers, and duties, as it may deem proper,  
25 under its supervision and control. No vacancy in the membership of  
26 the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the  
27 rights and perform all the duties of the commission.

28 h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission  
29 shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any  
30 project, any part of a project area, or an application for  
31 development, other than a residence, or in any contract, sale,  
32 purchase, lease, or transfer of real or personal property located  
33 within the boundaries of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

34 (1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention  
35 of this subsection is voidable.

36 (2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
37 subsection shall forfeit office or employment.

38 (cf: P.L.2021, c.195, s.4)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill requires each appointing authority of the Peter J. Barnes  
46 III Wildlife Preservation Commission to appoint one alternate  
47 member. Alternate members would each serve a term of five years

**S3918 DIEGNAN**

4

1 and may participate in discussions of the proceedings but are  
2 authorized to vote only in the absence or disability of a voting  
3 member.

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3918**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

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

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Johnson and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on February 10, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2025)**

1 AN ACT concerning the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
2 Commission and amending P.L.2009, c.132.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.132 (C.40:55D-88.4) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. Upon adoption of an authorizing resolution by the local  
10 governing **[body]** bodies of Edison Township, Metuchen Borough,  
11 and South Plainfield Borough, respectively, in Middlesex County,  
12 there is established the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation  
13 Commission. The commission shall consist of nine members,  
14 appointed and qualified as follows, provided however, that no more  
15 than five members shall be of the same political party and no more  
16 than three members shall be appointed from any one municipality:

17 (1) Two residents of Edison Township, appointed by the governing  
18 body of the municipality;

19 (2) Two residents of Metuchen Borough, appointed by the  
20 governing body of the municipality;

21 (3) Two residents of South Plainfield Borough, appointed by the  
22 governing body of the municipality;

23 (4) Two elected officials from Middlesex County, appointed by  
24 agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
25 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough; and

26 (5) one representative of the Edison Wetlands Association,  
27 appointed by agreement of the local governing bodies of Edison  
28 Township, Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough.

29 b. Each member shall serve for a term of five years. Each  
30 member shall serve for the term of the appointment and until a  
31 successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy shall  
32 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the  
33 unexpired term only. Each municipal appointing authority shall  
34 appoint one alternate member <sup>1</sup>**[for the regular members appointed by**  
35 the municipal appointing authority]<sup>1</sup> to act in the absence or disability  
36 of the regular <sup>1</sup>**[member]** members appointed thereby<sup>1</sup>. An alternate  
37 member shall have the same qualifications as a regular member  
38 appointed by the appointing authority and shall be appointed for a term  
39 of five years. <sup>1</sup>**[Alternate members]** Each alternate member<sup>1</sup> may  
40 participate in <sup>1</sup>**[discussions of]**<sup>1</sup> the <sup>1</sup>commission's<sup>1</sup> proceedings <sup>1</sup>,  
41 and in any discussions related thereto,<sup>1</sup> but shall <sup>1</sup>be authorized to<sup>1</sup>  
42 vote only in the absence or disability of a <sup>1</sup>**[voting]** regular<sup>1</sup> member  
43 <sup>1</sup>**[. A]** who has been appointed by the same municipal appointing  
44 authority. No commission<sup>1</sup> vote shall <sup>1</sup>**[not]**<sup>1</sup> be delayed in order

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 SEG committee amendments adopted February 10, 2025.

1 ~~1[that] to enable~~ a ~~1[voting] regular~~ member ~~1[may] to vote~~,<sup>1</sup>  
2 instead of an alternate member.

3 c. Any member of the commission may be removed by adoption  
4 of a resolution by the local governing bodies of Edison Township,  
5 Metuchen Borough, and South Plainfield Borough for cause after a  
6 public hearing.

7 d. Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe to an  
8 oath to perform the duties of the office faithfully, impartially, and  
9 justly to the best of their ability.

10 e. The members of the commission shall serve without  
11 compensation, but the commission may reimburse its members for  
12 necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

13 f. The commission shall select from its members a chairperson  
14 and vice-chairperson, and may employ an executive director, who may  
15 also serve as secretary, and a treasurer. The commission may also  
16 appoint, retain and employ, without regard to the provisions of Title  
17 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, such officers, agents,  
18 employees and experts as it may require, and it shall determine their  
19 qualifications, terms of office, duties, services and compensation. The  
20 local governing bodies may provide administrative support to the  
21 commission.

22 g. The powers of the commission shall be vested in the members  
23 thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the total  
24 authorized membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum at  
25 any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and  
26 resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof by the  
27 affirmative vote of a majority of the total authorized membership;  
28 provided, however, that the commission may designate one or more of  
29 its agents or employees to exercise such administrative functions,  
30 powers, and duties, as it may deem proper, under its supervision and  
31 control. No vacancy in the membership of the commission shall  
32 impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all  
33 the duties of the commission. <sup>1</sup>For the purposes of this subsection, the  
34 “total authorized membership” of the commission shall include the  
35 regular members appointed pursuant to subsection a. of this section,  
36 provided that in the absence or disability of a regular member, an  
37 alternate member authorized to vote in that regular member’s stead  
38 shall be counted within the total authorized membership in the regular  
39 member’s stead for the duration of the regular member’s absence or  
40 disability.<sup>1</sup>

41 h. No member, officer, employee, or agent of the commission  
42 shall be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any  
43 project, any part of a project area, or an application for development,  
44 other than a residence, or in any contract, sale, purchase, lease, or  
45 transfer of real or personal property located within the boundaries of  
46 the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preserve.

**S3918 [1R] DIEGNAN**

4

1       (1) Any contract or agreement knowingly made in contravention of  
2 this subsection is voidable.

3       (2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this  
4 subsection shall forfeit <sup>1</sup>the person's<sup>1</sup> office or employment.

5 (cf: P.L.2021, c.195, s.4)

6

7       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3918**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3918.

As amended and reported, this bill requires each appointing authority of the Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission to appoint one alternate member to serve in the absence or disability of the regular members appointed thereby. Each alternate member is to be appointed to serve a term of five years and may participate in the commission's proceedings, and in any discussions related thereto, but is authorized to vote only in the absence or disability of a regular voting member who has been appointed by the same appointing authority.

The bill further specifies that a commission vote may not be delayed for the purpose of enabling a regular voting member to vote, instead of an alternate member appointed pursuant to the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3918 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5067 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) clarify that the bill requires the appointment of a single alternate member by each municipal appointment authority, which alternate member is authorized to serve on the commission only in the absence or disability of a regular voting member appointed by the same authority;

(2) clarify that the "total authorized membership" of the commission includes the regular members, provided that in the absence or disability of a regular member, an alternate member authorized to vote in that regular member's stead is to be counted within the total authorized membership in the regular member's stead for the duration of the regular member's absence or disability; and

(3) incorporate other technical and clarifying changes.

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

04/22/2025

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

**S-742/A-2609 (Diegnan/Karabinchak, Carter, DePhillips)** - Appropriates unexpended funds from “New Jersey Bridge Rehabilitation and Improvement and Railroad Right-of-way Preservation Bond Act of 1989”

**S-3620/A-4817 (Burzichelli, Turner/Bailey, Simmons, Miller)** - Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers

**S-3388/A-4391 (Singleton, Gopal/Katz, Donlon, Stanley)** - Allows pharmacists to transfer Schedule II attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder prescriptions

**A-5067/S-3918 (Karabinchak, Stanley, Coughlin/Diegnan)** - Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission

**S-2594/A-3951 (Bucco, Smith/Bailey, Fantasia, Greenwald)** - Appropriates \$28,670,924 in 2003 and 1992 bond act monies for loans for dam restoration and repair projects and inland waters projects