

A4926 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	ATR 3/10/25 1R ACE 6/12/25 2R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes Transportation & Independent Auth. Commerce, Econ. Dev. & Agriculture
	SENATE:	No

(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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No	
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes	7/1/2025
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

§1
C.23:2A-7.1
and Note to
C.27:7-42.4
§§2,3
Note to
§1 and
C.27:7-42.4

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 77, *approved June 30, 2025*
Senate, No. 3618 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State
2 ³[.] and³ ²[¹and¹]² supplementing Title 23 ²[and Title 27]² of
3 the Revised Statutes ¹[, and making an appropriation]¹ ³[, and
4 making an appropriation²]³.

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

8
9 1. a. As used in this section:
10 "Action plan" means the ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]
11 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"² developed ²[and implemented]²
12 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

13 ²"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor
14 that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project,
15 which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
16 habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and
17 safety.

18 "Transportation project" means a project involving roadways,
19 bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual
20 Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not
21 include maintenance or repair projects.²

22 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
23 populations along which wildlife may move freely without
24 ²significant² risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or ²undue²
25 interference due to other man-made barriers.

26 b. No later than ²[24] 36² months after the effective date of
27 this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the
28 Department of Transportation shall jointly develop ²[and
29 implement]² a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," ²based on the
30 requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section,² which shall
31 be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after 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:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

³Assembly ACE committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 completion of the development of the plan, and any update or
2 revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and
3 the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the
4 Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
5 19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the ²**[Wildlife Corridor**
6 **Action Plan]** “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”².

7 c. The ²**[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]** “Wildlife Corridor
8 Action Plan”² shall:

9 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
10 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
11 corridors;

12 (2) ²**[prioritize]** identify² and recommend ²criteria for² crossing
13 projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
14 connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of
15 life and safety for wildlife ²**[**¹. The Department of Transportation
16 shall incorporate the recommended crossing projects into road
17 construction, maintenance, or repair projects whenever feasible¹]²;

18 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
19 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
20 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
21 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting ²**[Habitats]**
22 **Habitat²** Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

23 (4) consider the impact of ²**[road]** transportation² projects on
24 wildlife corridors ²**[incorporating]** and recommend² strategies to
25 mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and
26 incorporating safety measures into ²**[road and highway**
27 **construction]** transportation² projects; and

28 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
29 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
30 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
31 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
32 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
33 corridors.

34 d. ²**[While developing and implementing the action plan**
35 **pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of**
36 **Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation**
37 **may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and**
38 **independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State**
39 **conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations]**
40 No later than 36 months after the “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan” is
41 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to
42 subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall
43 review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that,
44 to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation
45 project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and

1 recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any transportation
 2 project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the
 3 selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since
 4 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 5 Legislature as this bill)².

6 e. ²**【**The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,
 7 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
 8 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
 9 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 10 Legislature as this bill)**】** While developing the action plan pursuant
 11 to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental
 12 Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the
 13 advice and services of other State agencies and independent
 14 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
 15 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While
 16 reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the
 17 Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services
 18 of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal
 19 agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or
 20 wildlife groups and organizations².

21
 22 ²2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
 23 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
 24 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
 25 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 26 Legislature as this bill).²

27
 28 ²**【**2.】² The Department of Transportation ²**【**shall**】** may²
 29 adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
 30 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
 31 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 32 Legislature as this bill).

33
 34 ¹**【**3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
 35 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
 36 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
 37 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.**】**¹

38
 39 ³**【**²4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
 40 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
 41 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
 42 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.**】**³

43
 44 ¹**【**4.】²**【**3.】³**【**5.】²**】** 4.³ This act shall take effect immediately.

S3618 [3R]

4

1

2

3 Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action
4 Plan.”

CHAPTER 77

AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State and supplementing Title 23 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.23:2A-7.1 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," definitions.

1. a. As used in this section:

"Action plan" means the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" developed pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project, which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and safety.

"Transportation project" means a project involving roadways, bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not include maintenance or repair projects.

"Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife populations along which wildlife may move freely without significant risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or undue interference due to other man-made barriers.

b. No later than 36 months after the effective date of this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation shall jointly develop a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," based on the requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section, which shall be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after the completion of the development of the plan, and any update or revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan."

c. The "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" shall:

(1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these corridors;

(2) identify and recommend criteria for crossing projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

(3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including, but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

(4) consider the impact of transportation projects on wildlife corridors and recommend strategies to mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures into transportation projects; and

(5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors.

d. No later than 36 months after the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" is submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that, to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any

transportation project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since the enactment of P.L.2025, c.77 (C.23:2A-7.1).

e. While developing the action plan pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of P.L.2025, c.77 (C.23:2A-7.1).

3. The Department of Transportation may adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of P.L.2025, c.77 (C.23:2A-7.1).

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved June 30, 2025.

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”; appropriates \$90,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/7/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State,
2 supplementing Title 23 and Title 27 of the Revised Statutes, and
3 making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Action plan" means the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan
10 developed and implemented pursuant to subsection b. of this
11 section.

12 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
13 populations along which wildlife may move freely without risk of
14 injury or death from motor vehicles or interference due to other
15 man-made barriers.

16 b. No later than 24 months after the effective date of this act, the
17 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
18 Transportation shall jointly develop and implement a "Wildlife
19 Corridor Action Plan," which shall be updated at least every 10
20 years. No later than 60 days after the completion of the
21 development of the plan, and any update or revision thereto, the
22 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
23 Transportation shall prepare and submit to the Governor, and,
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
25 Legislature, a summary of the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.

26 c. The Wildlife Corridor Action Plan shall:

27 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
28 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
29 corridors;

30 (2) prioritize and recommend crossing projects to promote motor
31 vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and
32 wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

33 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
34 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
35 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
36 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting Habitats
37 Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

38 (4) consider the impact of road projects on wildlife corridors
39 incorporating strategies to mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife
40 corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures into road
41 and highway construction projects; and

42 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
43 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
44 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
45 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
46 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
47 corridors.

1 d. While developing and implementing the action plan pursuant
2 to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
3 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
4 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
5 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
6 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

7 e. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,
8 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
9 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
10 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
11 Legislature as this bill).

12

13 2. The Department of Transportation shall adopt, pursuant to the
14 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
15 seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
16 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

17

18 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
19 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
20 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
21 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.

22

23 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection
29 and the Department of Transportation, no later than 24 months after
30 the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop and implement a
31 Wildlife Corridor Action Plan that identifies wildlife corridors,
32 wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers
33 to wildlife movement along these corridors, maximizes the
34 effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors, and incorporates the
35 other elements and actions enumerated in subsection c. of section 1
36 of the bill. The bill requires that the plan be updated every 10
37 years. The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental
38 Protection and the Department of Transportation, while developing
39 and implementing the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, to call upon
40 the advice and services of other State agencies and independent
41 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
42 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

43 The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection
44 and the Department of Transportation to adopt regulations
45 necessary to implement the bill's provisions. Finally, the bill
46 appropriates \$90,000 from the General Fund to the departments, to
47 be allocated to each department as necessary, to implement the
48 provisions of the bill.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee on October 10, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/7/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State,
2 ¹and¹ supplementing Title 23 and Title 27 of the Revised
3 Statutes ¹[, and making an appropriation]¹ .
4

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Action plan" means the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan
10 developed and implemented pursuant to subsection b. of this
11 section.

12 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
13 populations along which wildlife may move freely without risk of
14 injury or death from motor vehicles or interference due to other
15 man-made barriers.

16 b. No later than 24 months after the effective date of this act, the
17 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
18 Transportation shall jointly develop and implement a "Wildlife
19 Corridor Action Plan," which shall be updated at least every 10
20 years. No later than 60 days after the completion of the
21 development of the plan, and any update or revision thereto, the
22 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
23 Transportation shall prepare and submit to the Governor, and,
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
25 Legislature, a summary of the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.

26 c. The Wildlife Corridor Action Plan shall:

27 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
28 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
29 corridors;

30 (2) prioritize and recommend crossing projects to promote motor
31 vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and
32 wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife ¹ .
33 The Department of Transportation shall incorporate the
34 recommended crossing projects into road construction,
35 maintenance, or repair projects whenever feasible¹ ;

36 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
37 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
38 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
39 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting Habitats
40 Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

41 (4) consider the impact of road projects on wildlife corridors
42 incorporating strategies to mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife
43 corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures into road
44 and highway construction projects; and

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:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted October 10, 2024.

1 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
2 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
3 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
4 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
5 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
6 corridors.

7 d. While developing and implementing the action plan pursuant
8 to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
9 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
10 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
11 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
12 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

13 e. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,
14 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
15 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
16 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill).

18

19 2. The Department of Transportation shall adopt, pursuant to the
20 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
21 seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
22 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

23

24 ¹3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
25 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
26 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
27 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act. ¹

28

29 ¹4. 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

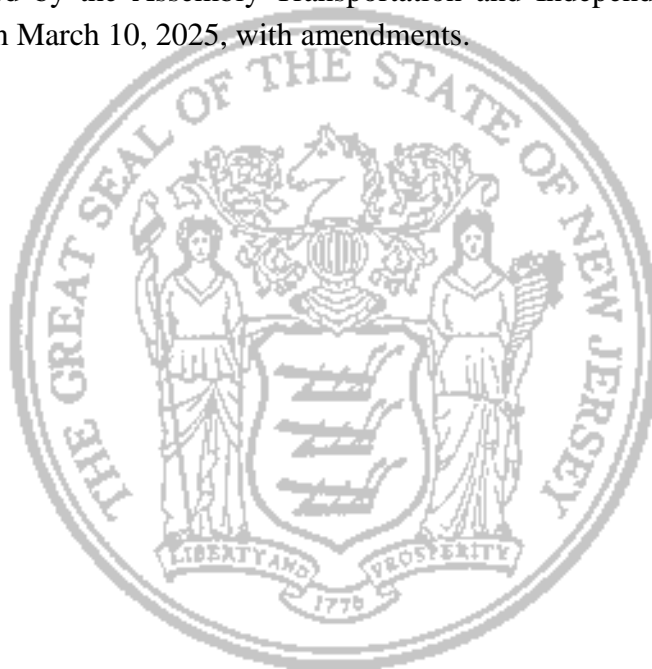
Senator McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”; appropriates \$90,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on March 10, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/7/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State,
2 ²[¹and¹]² supplementing Title 23 ²[and Title 27]² of the
3 Revised Statutes ²[¹], and making an appropriation¹ , and
4 making an appropriation².

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

8
9 1. a. As used in this section:
10 "Action plan" means the ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]
11 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"² developed ²[and implemented]²
12 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

13 ²"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor
14 that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project,
15 which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
16 habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and
17 safety.

18 "Transportation project" means a project involving roadways,
19 bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual
20 Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not
21 include maintenance or repair projects.²

22 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
23 populations along which wildlife may move freely without
24 ²significant² risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or ²undue²
25 interference due to other man-made barriers.

26 b. No later than ²[24] 36² months after the effective date of
27 this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the
28 Department of Transportation shall jointly develop ²[and
29 implement]² a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," ²based on the
30 requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section,² which shall
31 be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after the
32 completion of the development of the plan, and any update or
33 revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and
34 the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the
35 Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
36 19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the ²[Wildlife Corridor
37 Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"².

38 c. The ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor
39 Action Plan"² shall:

40 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
41 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
42 corridors;

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:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

1 (2) ²**[prioritize]** identify² and recommend ²criteria for² crossing
2 projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
3 connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of
4 life and safety for wildlife ²**[**¹. The Department of Transportation
5 shall incorporate the recommended crossing projects into road
6 construction, maintenance, or repair projects whenever feasible¹**]**²;

7 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
8 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
9 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
10 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting ²**[Habitats]**
11 Habitat² Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

12 (4) consider the impact of ²**[road]** transportation² projects on
13 wildlife corridors ²**[incorporating]** and recommend² strategies to
14 mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and
15 incorporating safety measures into ²**[road and highway**
16 **construction]** transportation² projects; and

17 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
18 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
19 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
20 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
21 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
22 corridors.

23 d. ²**[While developing and implementing the action plan**
24 **pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of**
25 **Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation**
26 **may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and**
27 **independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State**
28 **conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations]**
29 No later than 36 months after the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" is
30 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to
31 subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall
32 review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that,
33 to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation
34 project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and
35 recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any transportation
36 project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the
37 selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since
38 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
39 Legislature as this bill)².

40 e. ²**[The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,**
41 **pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410**
42 **(C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the**
43 **implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the**
44 **Legislature as this bill)]** While developing the action plan pursuant
45 to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental
46 Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the
47 advice and services of other State agencies and independent

1 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
2 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While
3 reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the
4 Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services
5 of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal
6 agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or
7 wildlife groups and organizations².

8
9 ²2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
10 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
11 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
12 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
13 Legislature as this bill).²

14
15 ²~~2.~~^{3.}² The Department of Transportation ²~~shall~~ may²
16 adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
17 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
18 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
19 Legislature as this bill).

20
21 ¹~~3.~~ There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
22 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
23 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
24 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act. ¹

25
26 ²4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
27 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
28 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
29 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.²

30
31 ¹~~4.~~ ²~~3.~~¹ ^{5.}² This act shall take effect immediately.

[Third Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

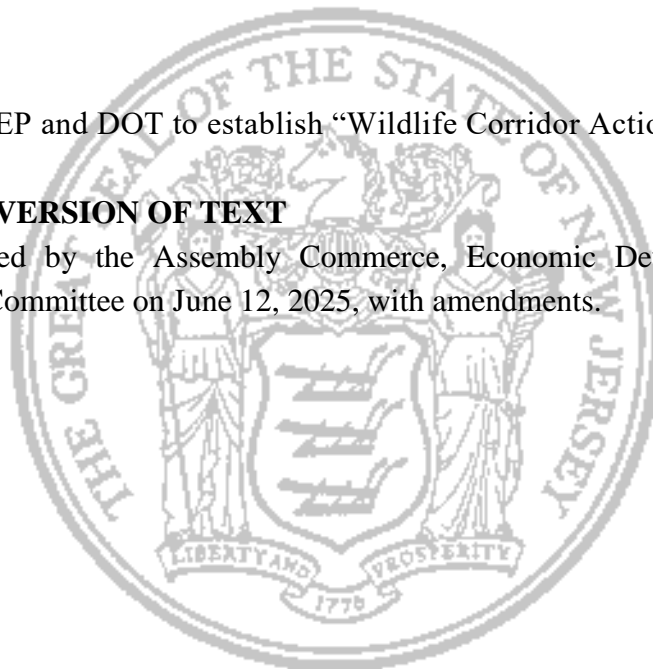
**Senator McKeon, Assemblywoman Hall, Assemblymen Myhre, Sampson,
Karabinchak and Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Commerce, Economic Development and
Agriculture Committee on June 12, 2025, with amendments.



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

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State
 2 ³[.] and³ ²[¹and¹]² supplementing Title 23 ²[and Title 27]² of
 3 the Revised Statutes ¹[, and making an appropriation]¹ ³[, and
 4 making an appropriation²]³.

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

8

9 1. a. As used in this section:

10 "Action plan" means the ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]
 11 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"² developed ²[and implemented]²
 12 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

13 ²"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor
 14 that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project,
 15 which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
 16 habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and
 17 safety.

18 "Transportation project" means a project involving roadways,
 19 bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual
 20 Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not
 21 include maintenance or repair projects.²

22 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
 23 populations along which wildlife may move freely without
 24 ²significant² risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or ²undue²
 25 interference due to other man-made barriers.

26 b. No later than ²[24] ³⁶² months after the effective date of
 27 this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the
 28 Department of Transportation shall jointly develop ²[and
 29 implement]² a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," ²based on the
 30 requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section,² which shall
 31 be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after the
 32 completion of the development of the plan, and any update or
 33 revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and
 34 the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the
 35 Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
 36 19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the ²[Wildlife Corridor
 37 Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"².

38 c. The ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor
 39 Action Plan"² shall:

40 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
 41 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
 42 corridors;

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:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

³Assembly ACE committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 (2) ²**[prioritize]** identify² and recommend ²criteria for² crossing
2 projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
3 connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of
4 life and safety for wildlife ²**[**The Department of Transportation
5 shall incorporate the recommended crossing projects into road
6 construction, maintenance, or repair projects whenever feasible¹**]**²;

7 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
8 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
9 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
10 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting ²**[Habitats]**
11 Habitat² Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

12 (4) consider the impact of ²**[road]** transportation² projects on
13 wildlife corridors ²**[incorporating]** and recommend² strategies to
14 mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and
15 incorporating safety measures into ²**[road and highway**
16 construction] transportation² projects; and

17 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
18 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
19 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
20 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
21 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
22 corridors.

23 d. ²**[While developing and implementing the action plan**
24 pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
25 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
26 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
27 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
28 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations]
29 No later than 36 months after the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" is
30 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to
31 subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall
32 review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that,
33 to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation
34 project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and
35 recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any transportation
36 project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the
37 selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since
38 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
39 Legislature as this bill)².

40 e. ²**[The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,**
41 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
42 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
43 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
44 Legislature as this bill)] While developing the action plan pursuant
45 to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental
46 Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the
47 advice and services of other State agencies and independent

1 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
2 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While
3 reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the
4 Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services
5 of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal
6 agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or
7 wildlife groups and organizations².

8
9 ²2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
10 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
11 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
12 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
13 Legislature as this bill).²

14
15 ²[2.] 3.² The Department of Transportation ²[shall] may²
16 adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
17 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
18 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
19 Legislature as this bill).

20
21 ¹[3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
22 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
23 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
24 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.]¹

25
26 ³[²4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
27 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
28 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
29 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.]³

30
31 ¹[4.] ²[3.] ³[5.] ⁴4.³ This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2025

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3618 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), no later than 36 months after the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop a “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan” (plan) that: (1) identifies wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these corridors; (2) maximizes the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors; and (3) incorporates the other elements and actions enumerated in the bill. The bill requires the DEP and the DOT to update the plan every 10 years. In addition, the bill requires the DOT, no later than 36 months after the plan has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion, to the extent feasible, in certain transportation projects. The bill authorizes the DEP and the DOT, while developing the plan and reviewing the plan for crossing projects to be included in certain transportation projects, to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

The bill permits the DEP and the DOT to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill’s provisions. Finally, the bill appropriates \$90,000 from the General Fund to the DEP and the DOT, to be allocated to each department as necessary, to implement the provisions of the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3618 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4926, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) clarify that the DEP and the DOT are to develop and not implement the plan;

(2) define “crossing project”;

(3) define “transportation project”;

(4) revise the definition of “wildlife corridor”;

(5) require the DEP and the DOT to jointly develop the plan no later than 36 months, rather than 24 months, after the bill’s effective date;

(6) clarify that the plan is to identify, rather than prioritize, crossing projects that promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

(7) clarify that the plan is to recommend criteria for crossing projects and not recommend crossing projects themselves, which projects are to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

(8) remove the requirement for the DOT to incorporate the recommended crossing projects into road construction, maintenance, or repair projects whenever feasible;

(9) clarify that the plan is to consider the impact of transportation projects, instead of road projects, on wildlife corridors, and recommend, rather than incorporate, strategies to mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures into transportation projects, instead of road and highway construction projects;

(10) require the DOT to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion, to the extent feasible, in certain transportation projects, no later than 36 months after the plan has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature;

(11) permit the DOT to contact other governmental and industry entities for assistance while reviewing the plan to recommend crossing projects for inclusion in certain transportation projects;

(12) clarify that the DEP and the DOT are permitted and not required to adopt rules and regulations pursuant to current law as necessary to implement the bill’s provisions;

(13) appropriate \$90,000 from the General Fund to the DEP and the DOT to implement the bill’s provisions;

(14) update the bill’s title and synopsis; and

(15) make technical corrections to the bill.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3618

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Assembly Commerce, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3618 (2R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), no later than 36 months after the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop a “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan” (plan) that: (1) identifies wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these corridors; (2) maximizes the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors; and (3) incorporates the other elements and actions enumerated in the bill. The bill requires the DEP and the DOT to update the plan every 10 years. In addition, the bill requires the DOT, no later than 36 months after the plan has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion, to the extent feasible, in certain transportation projects. The bill authorizes the DEP and the DOT, while developing the plan and reviewing the plan for crossing projects to be included in certain transportation projects, to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

Finally, the bill permits the DEP and the DOT to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill’s provisions.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3618 (2R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4926 (1R), as was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to remove the \$90,000 appropriation and update the bill’s title and synopsis.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3618

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 10, 2024

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3618.

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), no later than 24 months after the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan that identifies wildlife corridors and wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, prioritizes and recommends crossing projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity, and incorporates other elements enumerated in subsection c. of section 1 of the bill.

The bill requires that the plan be updated every 10 years. The bill authorizes the DEP and the DOT, while developing and implementing the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. The bill authorizes the DEP and the DOT to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill's provisions.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

(1) explicitly direct the DOT to incorporate wildlife crossing projects identified in the plan into road construction, maintenance, or repair projects whenever practicable; and

(2) remove the \$90,000 appropriation from the bill.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 30, 2024

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs DEP and DOT to establish "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan."
- Type of Impact:** Decennial State expenditure increase; potential annual State cost increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Decennial State Expenditure Increase	Approximately \$600,000
Potential Annual State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill will result in approximately \$600,000 in additional State expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation collaborate to develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. This estimate assumes that the development of the plan will require four full-time equivalent employees across the two departments.
- The Department of Transportation may incur indeterminate annual cost increases to the extent that recommended crossing projects cause road construction, maintenance, and repair projects to be more costly than they otherwise would be absent this bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation to collaboratively develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The plan would identify wildlife corridors and wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, prioritize and recommend crossing projects to promote driver safety and wildlife connectivity, utilize relevant State databases to incorporate existing conservation strategies developed in the State (such as the

State Wildlife Action Plan and the Department of Environmental Protection's Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey project), consider the impact of road projects on wildlife corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures in road and highway construction, and coordinate action between State agencies to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors. Wherever feasible, the Department of Transportation is to incorporate the recommended crossing projects into road construction, maintenance, and repair projects.

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation would be required to update this Wildlife Corridor Action plan every 10 years. The departments would be authorized to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in approximately \$600,000 in additional State expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation collaborate to develop and implement wildlife habitat connectivity strategies and corridor action plans. The Department of Transportation may also incur indeterminate annual cost increases to the extent that recommended crossing projects cause road construction, maintenance, and repair projects to be more costly than they otherwise would be absent this bill.

Other states have implemented similar programs to ensure safe ecological connectivity. One such program in the State of Washington directed the Department of Transportation and Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a wildlife habitat connectivity alliance, which would initiate a collaborative strategy and stakeholder forum to advance projects that provide safe passage for wildlife and motorists. The bill required the development of an interagency steering committee, the hiring of a third-party facilitator to guide the operations of the alliance, a plan for mobilizing diverse stakeholder participation and outreach, and the identification of efforts needed to build a framework for prioritization, oversight, and funding decisions related to implementing connectivity action plans. In Washington, these plans and processes are to be updated every six years.

Fiscal estimates for the Washington bill estimated the operating expenditures to be \$452,000 for the first two years of implementation, \$790,000 for the third and fourth years of implementation, and \$722,000 for the fifth and sixth years of implementation. Because the New Jersey bill does not include identical requirements, some of the anticipated costs for the implementation of the Washington bill would not be incurred for the implementation of the New Jersey bill. Given the example of Washington wildlife corridor planning and implementation, the OLS concludes that New Jersey could expect approximately \$600,000 in additional expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Transportation hire four additional full-time equivalent staff – two in each department – and initiate the planning processes necessary to implement the bill.

The bill may also lead to increased annual expenditures by the Department of Transportation for road construction projects, since it requires the department to incorporate wildlife crossings recommended under the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan into road construction, maintenance, and repair projects whenever practicable. The OLS cannot estimate how the inclusion of these crossings will affect project expenses over the baseline costs absent this bill.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy & Natural Resources

*Analyst: Anna Heckler
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Third Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 1, 2025

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs DEP and DOT to establish "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan."
- Type of Impact:** Decennial State expenditure increase; potential annual State cost increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Decennial State Expenditure Increase	Approximately \$600,000
Potential Annual State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill will result in approximately \$600,000 in additional State expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation collaboratively develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. This estimate assumes that the development of the plan will require four full-time equivalent employees across the two departments.
- The Department of Transportation may incur indeterminate annual cost increases to the extent that recommended crossing projects cause road construction, maintenance, and repair projects to be more costly than they otherwise would be absent this bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation to collaboratively develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The plan would: 1) identify wildlife corridors and wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots; 2) prioritize and recommend crossing projects to promote driver safety and wildlife connectivity; 3) utilize relevant State databases to incorporate existing conservation strategies developed in the State (such as the

State Wildlife Action Plan and the Department of Environmental Protection's Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey project); 4) consider the impact of road projects on wildlife corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures in road and highway construction; and 5) coordinate action between State agencies to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors. No later than 36 months after the plan is submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, the departments would be required to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that may be incorporated into existing transportation projects for program inclusion. The Department of Transportation would be prohibited from identifying or recommending crossing projects for inclusion in transportation projects that have surpassed the concept development phase, selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent project milestone since the enactment of the bill.

The departments would be required to update this Wildlife Corridor Action plan every 10 years. The departments would be authorized to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in approximately \$600,000 in additional State expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation collaborate to develop and implement the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The Department of Transportation may also incur indeterminate annual cost increases to the extent that identified and recommended crossing projects cause road construction, maintenance, and repair projects to be more costly than they otherwise would be absent this bill.

Other states have implemented similar programs to ensure safe ecological connectivity. One such program in the State of Washington directed the Department of Transportation and Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a wildlife habitat connectivity alliance, which would initiate a collaborative strategy and stakeholder forum to advance projects that provide safe passage for wildlife and motorists. The bill required the development of an interagency steering committee, the hiring of a third-party facilitator to guide the operations of the alliance, a plan for mobilizing diverse stakeholder participation and outreach, and the identification of efforts needed to build a framework for prioritization, oversight, and funding decisions related to implementing connectivity action plans. In Washington, these plans and processes are required to be updated every six years.

Fiscal estimates for the Washington bill projected the operating expenditures to be \$452,000 for the first two years of implementation, \$790,000 for the third and fourth years of implementation, and \$722,000 for the fifth and sixth years of implementation. Because the New Jersey bill does not include identical requirements, some of the anticipated costs for the implementation of the Washington bill would not be incurred for the New Jersey bill. Given the example of Washington wildlife corridor planning and implementation, the OLS concludes that New Jersey could anticipate approximately \$600,000 in additional expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation hire four

additional full-time equivalent staff – two in each department – and initiate the planning processes necessary to implement the bill.

The bill may also lead to increased annual expenditures by the Department of Transportation for road construction projects, since it requires the department to incorporate wildlife crossings recommended under the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan into road construction, maintenance, and repair projects, provided that the project has not surpassed a certain project phase. Because the department must add wildlife crossings only when a project has not advanced beyond the specified phase, OLS cannot estimate the incremental cost over baseline spending.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy & Natural Resources

*Analyst: Anna Heckler
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 4926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 2024

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE
District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”; appropriates \$90,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State,
2 supplementing Title 23 and Title 27 of the Revised Statutes, and
3 making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Action plan" means the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan
10 developed and implemented pursuant to subsection b. of this
11 section.

12 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
13 populations along which wildlife may move freely without risk of
14 injury or death from motor vehicles or interference due to other
15 man-made barriers.

16 b. No later than 24 months after the effective date of this act, the
17 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
18 Transportation shall jointly develop and implement a "Wildlife
19 Corridor Action Plan," which shall be updated at least every 10
20 years. No later than 60 days after the completion of the
21 development of the plan, and any update or revision thereto, the
22 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
23 Transportation shall prepare and submit to the Governor, and,
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
25 Legislature, a summary of the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.

26 c. The Wildlife Corridor Action Plan shall:

27 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
28 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
29 corridors;

30 (2) prioritize and recommend crossing projects to promote motor
31 vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and
32 wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

33 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
34 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
35 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
36 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting Habitats
37 Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

38 (4) consider the impact of road projects on wildlife corridors
39 incorporating strategies to mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife
40 corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures into road
41 and highway construction projects; and

42 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
43 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
44 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
45 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
46 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
47 corridors.

1 d. While developing and implementing the action plan pursuant
2 to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
3 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
4 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
5 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
6 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

7 e. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,
8 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
9 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
10 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
11 Legislature as this bill).

12

13 2. The Department of Transportation shall adopt, pursuant to the
14 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
15 seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
16 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

17

18 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
19 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
20 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
21 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.

22

23 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection
29 and the Department of Transportation, no later than 24 months after
30 the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop and implement a
31 Wildlife Corridor Action Plan that identifies wildlife corridors,
32 wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers
33 to wildlife movement along these corridors, maximizes the
34 effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors, and incorporates the
35 other elements and actions enumerated in subsection c. of section 1
36 of the bill. The bill requires that the plan be updated every 10
37 years. The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental
38 Protection and the Department of Transportation, while developing
39 and implementing the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, to call upon
40 the advice and services of other State agencies and independent
41 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
42 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

43 The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection
44 and the Department of Transportation to adopt regulations
45 necessary to implement the bill's provisions. Finally, the bill
46 appropriates \$90,000 from the General Fund to the departments, to
47 be allocated to each department as necessary, to implement the
48 provisions of the bill.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

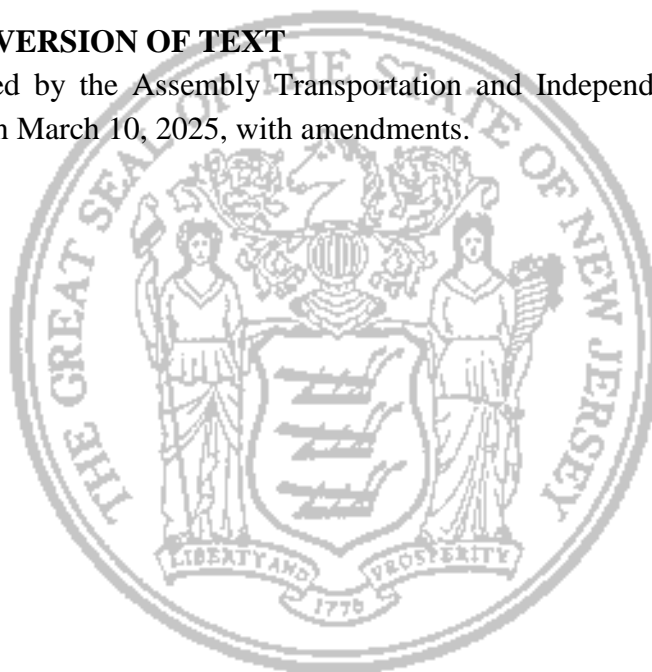
Assemblywoman Hall, Assemblymen Myhre and Sampson

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”; appropriates \$90,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on March 10, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/5/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State,
 2 supplementing Title 23 ¹[and Title 27]¹ of the Revised Statutes,
 3 and making an appropriation.

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

7
 8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Action plan" means the ¹[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]
 10 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"¹ developed ¹[and implemented]¹
 11 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

12 ¹"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor
 13 that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project,
 14 which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
 15 habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and
 16 safety.

17 "Transportation project" means a project involving roadways,
 18 bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual
 19 Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not
 20 include maintenance or repair projects.¹

21 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
 22 populations along which wildlife may move freely without
 23 ¹significant¹ risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or ¹undue¹
 24 interference due to other man-made barriers.

25 b. No later than ¹[24] 36¹ months after the effective date of
 26 this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the
 27 Department of Transportation shall jointly develop ¹[and
 28 implement]¹ a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," ¹based on the
 29 requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section,¹ which shall
 30 be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after the
 31 completion of the development of the plan, and any update or
 32 revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and
 33 the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the
 34 Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
 35 19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the ¹[Wildlife Corridor
 36 Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"¹.

37 c. The ¹[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor
 38 Action Plan"¹ shall:

39 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
 40 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
 41 corridors;

42 (2) ¹[prioritize] identify¹ and recommend ¹criteria for¹ crossing
 43 projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

1 connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of
2 life and safety for wildlife;

3 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
4 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
5 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
6 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting ¹**[Habitats]**
7 Habitat¹ Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

8 (4) consider the impact of ¹**[road]** transportation¹ projects on
9 wildlife corridors ¹**[incorporating]** and recommend¹ strategies to
10 mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and
11 incorporating safety measures into ¹**[road and highway**
12 construction] transportation¹ projects; and

13 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
14 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
15 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
16 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
17 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
18 corridors.

19 d. ¹**[While developing and implementing the action plan**
20 pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
21 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
22 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
23 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
24 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations]
25 No later than 36 months after the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" is
26 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to
27 subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall
28 review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that,
29 to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation
30 project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and
31 recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any transportation
32 project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the
33 selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since
34 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
35 Legislature as this bill)¹.

36 e. ¹**[The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,**
37 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
38 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
39 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
40 Legislature as this bill)] While developing the action plan pursuant
41 to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental
42 Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the
43 advice and services of other State agencies and independent
44 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
45 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While
46 reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the
47 Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services

1 of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal
2 agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or
3 wildlife groups and organizations¹.

4

5 ¹2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
6 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
7 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
8 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
9 Legislature as this bill).¹

10

11 ¹~~2.~~ ^{3.}¹ The Department of Transportation ¹~~shall~~ may¹
12 adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
13 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
14 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
15 Legislature as this bill).

16

17 ¹~~3.~~ ^{4.}¹ There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
18 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
19 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
20 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.

21

22 ¹~~4.~~ ^{5.}¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Hall, Assemblymen Myhre, Sampson, Karabinchak and

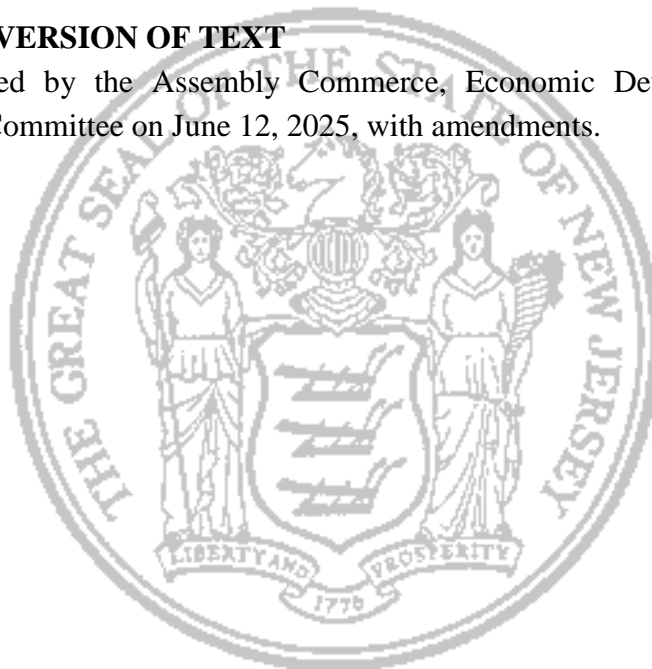
Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Commerce, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee on June 12, 2025, with amendments.



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

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State
 2 ²**[.]** and² supplementing Title 23 ¹**[and Title 27]**¹ of the Revised
 3 Statutes ²**[, and making an appropriation]**².

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

7
 8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Action plan" means the ¹**[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]**
 10 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"¹ developed ¹**[and implemented]**¹
 11 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

12 ¹"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor
 13 that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project,
 14 which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
 15 habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and
 16 safety.

17 "Transportation project" means a project involving roadways,
 18 bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual
 19 Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not
 20 include maintenance or repair projects.¹

21 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
 22 populations along which wildlife may move freely without
 23 ¹significant¹ risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or ¹undue¹
 24 interference due to other man-made barriers.

25 b. No later than ¹**[24]** ¹**36**¹ months after the effective date of
 26 this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the
 27 Department of Transportation shall jointly develop ¹**[and**
 28 **implement]**¹ a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," ¹based on the
 29 requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section,¹ which shall
 30 be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after the
 31 completion of the development of the plan, and any update or
 32 revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and
 33 the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the
 34 Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
 35 19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the ¹**[Wildlife Corridor**
 36 **Action Plan]** "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"¹.

37 c. The ¹**[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]** "Wildlife Corridor
 38 Action Plan"¹ shall:

39 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
 40 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
 41 corridors;

42 (2) ¹**[prioritize]** identify¹ and recommend ¹criteria for¹ crossing
 43 projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

²Assembly ACE committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of
2 life and safety for wildlife;

3 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
4 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
5 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
6 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting ¹**[Habitats]**
7 Habitat¹ Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

8 (4) consider the impact of ¹**[road]** transportation¹ projects on
9 wildlife corridors ¹**[incorporating]** and recommend¹ strategies to
10 mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and
11 incorporating safety measures into ¹**[road and highway**
12 construction] transportation¹ projects; and

13 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
14 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
15 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
16 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
17 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
18 corridors.

19 d. ¹**[While developing and implementing the action plan**
20 pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
21 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
22 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
23 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
24 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations]
25 No later than 36 months after the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" is
26 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to
27 subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall
28 review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that,
29 to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation
30 project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and
31 recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any transportation
32 project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the
33 selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since
34 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
35 Legislature as this bill)¹.

36 e. ¹**[The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,**
37 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
38 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
39 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
40 Legislature as this bill)] While developing the action plan pursuant
41 to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental
42 Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the
43 advice and services of other State agencies and independent
44 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
45 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While
46 reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the
47 Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services

1 of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal
2 agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or
3 wildlife groups and organizations¹.

4

5 ¹2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
6 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
7 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
8 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
9 Legislature as this bill).¹

10

11 ¹~~[2.]~~ ^{3.}¹ The Department of Transportation ¹~~[shall]~~ may¹
12 adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
13 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
14 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
15 Legislature as this bill).

16

17 ¹~~[3.]~~ ²~~[4.]~~¹ There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
18 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
19 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
20 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act. ²

21

22 ¹~~[4.]~~ ²~~[5.]~~ ^{4.}² This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4926

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2025

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4926.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), no later than 36 months after the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop a “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan” (plan) that: (1) identifies wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these corridors; (2) maximizes the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors; and (3) incorporates the other elements and actions enumerated in the bill. The bill requires the DEP and the DOT to update the plan every 10 years. In addition, the bill requires the DOT, no later than 36 months after the plan has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion, to the extent feasible, in certain transportation projects. The bill authorizes the DEP and the DOT, while developing the plan and reviewing the plan for crossing projects to be included in certain transportation projects, to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

The bill permits the DEP and the DOT to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill’s provisions. Finally, the bill appropriates \$90,000 from the General Fund to the DEP and the DOT, to be allocated to each department as necessary, to implement the provisions of the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4926 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3618 (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 DEP and the DOT are to develop and not implement the plan;

(2) define “crossing project”;

(3) define “transportation project”;

(4) revise the definition of “wildlife corridor”;

(5) require the DEP and the DOT to jointly develop the plan no later than 36 months, rather than 24 months, after the bill’s effective date;

(6) clarify that the plan is to identify, rather than prioritize, crossing projects that promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

(7) clarify that the plan is to recommend criteria for crossing projects and not recommend crossing projects themselves, which projects are to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of life and safety for wildlife;

(8) clarify that the plan is to consider the impact of transportation projects, instead of road projects, on wildlife corridors, and recommend, rather than incorporate, strategies to mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures into transportation projects, instead of road and highway construction projects;

(9) require the DOT to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion, to the extent feasible, in certain transportation projects, no later than 36 months after the plan has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature;

(10) permit the DOT to contact other governmental and industry entities for assistance while reviewing the plan to recommend crossing projects for inclusion in certain transportation projects;

(11) clarify that the DEP and the DOT are permitted and not required to adopt rules and regulations pursuant to current law as necessary to implement the bill’s provisions;

(12) update the bill’s title; and

(13) make technical corrections to the bill.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4926

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Assembly Commerce, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4926 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), no later than 36 months after the effective date of the bill, to jointly develop a “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan” (plan) that: (1) identifies wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots, and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these corridors; (2) maximizes the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors; and (3) incorporates the other elements and actions enumerated in the bill. The bill requires the DEP and the DOT to update the plan every 10 years. In addition, the bill requires the DOT, no later than 36 months after the plan has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects for inclusion, to the extent feasible, in certain transportation projects. The bill authorizes the DEP and the DOT, while developing the plan and reviewing the plan for crossing projects to be included in certain transportation projects, to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

Finally, the bill permits the DEP and the DOT to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill’s provisions.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4926 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3618 (2R), as was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to remove the \$90,000 appropriation and update the bill’s title and synopsis.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 1, 2025

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs DEP and DOT to establish "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan."
- Type of Impact:** Decennial State expenditure increase; potential annual State cost increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Decennial State Expenditure Increase	Approximately \$600,000
Potential Annual State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill will result in approximately \$600,000 in additional State expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation collaboratively develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. This estimate assumes that the development of the plan will require four full-time equivalent employees across the two departments.
- The Department of Transportation may incur indeterminate annual cost increases to the extent that recommended crossing projects cause road construction, maintenance, and repair projects to be more costly than they otherwise would be absent this bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation to collaboratively develop and implement a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The plan would: 1) identify wildlife corridors and wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots; 2) prioritize and

recommend crossing projects to promote driver safety and wildlife connectivity; 3) utilize relevant State databases to incorporate existing conservation strategies developed in the State (such as the State Wildlife Action Plan and the Department of Environmental Protection's Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey project); 4) consider the impact of road projects on wildlife corridors by modifying and incorporating safety measures in road and highway construction; and 5) coordinate action between State agencies to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife corridors. No later than 36 months after the plan is submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, the departments would be required to review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that may be incorporated into existing transportation projects for program inclusion. The Department of Transportation would be prohibited from identifying or recommending crossing projects for inclusion in transportation projects that have surpassed the concept development phase, selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent project milestone since the enactment of the bill.

The departments would be required to update this Wildlife Corridor Action plan every 10 years. The departments would be authorized to call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in approximately \$600,000 in additional State expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation collaborate to develop and implement the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The Department of Transportation may also incur indeterminate annual cost increases to the extent that identified and recommended crossing projects cause road construction, maintenance, and repair projects to be more costly than they otherwise would be absent this bill.

Other states have implemented similar programs to ensure safe ecological connectivity. One such program in the State of Washington directed the Department of Transportation and Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a wildlife habitat connectivity alliance, which would initiate a collaborative strategy and stakeholder forum to advance projects that provide safe passage for wildlife and motorists. The bill required the development of an interagency steering committee, the hiring of a third-party facilitator to guide the operations of the alliance, a plan for mobilizing diverse stakeholder participation and outreach, and the identification of efforts needed to build a framework for prioritization, oversight, and funding decisions related to implementing connectivity action plans. In Washington, these plans and processes are required to be updated every six years.

Fiscal estimates for the Washington bill projected the operating expenditures to be \$452,000 for the first two years of implementation, \$790,000 for the third and fourth years of implementation, and \$722,000 for the fifth and sixth years of implementation. Because the New Jersey bill does not include identical requirements, some of the anticipated costs for the implementation of the Washington bill would not be incurred for the New Jersey bill. Given the example of Washington wildlife corridor planning and implementation, the OLS concludes that

New Jersey could anticipate approximately \$600,000 in additional expenditures every 10 years as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation hire four additional full-time equivalent staff – two in each department – and initiate the planning processes necessary to implement the bill.

The bill may also lead to increased annual expenditures by the Department of Transportation for road construction projects, since it requires the department to incorporate wildlife crossings recommended under the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan into road construction, maintenance, and repair projects, provided that the project has not surpassed a certain project phase. Because the department must add wildlife crossings only when a project has not advanced beyond the specified phase, OLS cannot estimate the incremental cost over baseline spending.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy & Natural Resources

*Analyst: Anna Heckler
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Bills Gov Acted On

Posted on - 06/30/2025

The Governor has acted on the following bills:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-4620/A-5879 (McKnight, Mukherji/McCann Stamato) - Amends Fiscal Year 2025 annual appropriations act to assign distribution of Old Courthouse asbestos remediation funding from Hudson County to Jersey City

S-2788wGR/A-4569 (Cruz-Perez, Turner/Freiman, Katz, Simmons) - Appropriates \$128.241 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

A-5100/S-3991 (Rodriguez/Stack) - Re-appropriates unexpended balance of FY 2024 appropriation for Town of West New York to support recreation center; appropriates \$3 million for Town of West New York – Recreation Center to restore lapsed FY 2024 funding

A-5807/S-4655 (Pintor Marin/Sarlo) - Makes FY2025 supplemental appropriations of \$142,615,000; adds various language provisions to FY2025 Appropriations Act

A-5803/SCS for S-3064 (Bagolie/McKeon, Turner) - Modifies tax on certain forms of online gaming and wagering

ACS for A-4455/SCS for S-4503 (Freiman, Schaer, Karabinchak /Sarlo, Mukherji) - Allows exemption from New Jersey gross income of certain capital gains from sale or exchange of qualified small business stock

A-5805/SCS for S-4659 and 4661 (Venezia/Sarlo, Vitale) - Modifies tax rate on certain nicotine products

A-5804/S-4666 (Reynolds-Jackson/Wimberly) - Modifies payer of additional fees and taxes imposed on certain real property transfers; modifies fees and taxes imposed on property transfers valued over \$2 million

A-5809/S-4656 (Murphy/Vitale) - "Healthcare Finance Enhancement Act"

S-3189/A-2365 (Zwicker, Sarlo/Tully, Murphy, DePhillips) - Makes various changes to “New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act” and Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program; repeals “New Jersey Ignite Act”

S-4654/A-5878 (Scutari, A.M. Bucco/Schnall, Inganamort) - Provides for publication of required legal notices on government Internet websites and through certain online news publications

A-5801/S-4692 (Freiman/Sarlo) - Appropriates \$247,128,000 from “New Jersey Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund”; establishes process for authorizing future appropriations for debt defeasance and capital projects

(BUDGET BILL – w/Rev Cert. LIV, Summary)

BILL VETOED:

[S-2026/A-5800](#) (Sarlo/Pintor Marin, Park) – w/LINE ITEM Appropriates \$58,782,119,000 in State funds and \$31,007,261,743 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2026

BILL SIGNINGS:

A-5810/S-4660 (Pintor Marin, Dolon, Bagolie/McKeon, McKnight) - Promotes equity in health insurance appeal process

S-4632/A-5812 (Scutari, Ruiz/Schaer) - Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets

S-3618/A-4926 (Smith, Greenstein/Calabrese, Tully, Haider) - Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”

S-3933/A-5075 (Ruiz, McKnight/Swain, Morales, Bagolie) - Establishes School Supervisor Mentorship Pilot Program; appropriates \$500,000

A-5077/S-4375 (Morales, Bagolie, Carter/Ruiz, Zwicker) - Extends statutory pause on collection of student growth objective data

A-5795/S-4619 (Pintor Marin, Freiman, Drulis/Zwicker) - Modifies certain provisions of "New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Act"

S-4618/A-5827 (Mukherji, Gopal/Pintor Marin, Peterpaul, Donlon) - Modifies certain requirements and award availability under film and digital media content production tax credit program

S-4122/A-5257 (Burzichelli/Stanley, Egan) - Revises apportionment of State lottery contributions

Governor Murphy Signs Fiscal Year 2026 Budget into Law

Posted on - 06/30/2025

Budget Builds on Governor Murphy's Historic Record of Fiscal Responsibility – With a \$6.7 Billion Surplus to Help Weather Future Financial Challenges Compared to Just \$409 Million Surplus Inherited in 2018

Budget Provides An All-Time High Level of Property Tax Relief, the Highest Level of School Funding in History, and a Fifth Consecutive Full Pension Payment

Budget Makes Historic Investments in Women's Health Care and Provides Funding to Fully Modernize NJ TRANSIT's Fleet

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed into law the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act, marking a culmination of the Murphy Administration's longstanding commitment to fiscal responsibility, affordability, and opportunity. Over nine budgets spanning nearly eight years in office, Governor Murphy has presided over sustained economic growth while making long overdue investments in addressing the needs of working New Jerseyans, from property tax relief, to school funding, to restoring funding for the State's pension systems.

The \$58.78 billion Fiscal Year 2026 (FY2026) budget, which was passed by the Legislature earlier today, redirects over 75 percent of the total budget back into our communities in the form of grants-in-aid for property tax relief, social services, higher education, as well as State aid to schools, municipalities, and counties. The budget includes an all-time high level of direct property tax relief for homeowners and renters, yields the highest level of school funding in history, and delivers a fifth consecutive full pension payment. It also prioritizes quality health services for women and families, and it invests in beginning to fully modernize NJ TRANSIT's fleet.

Upon taking office, Governor Murphy inherited a \$409 million surplus from his predecessor. Eight years later, the Governor will leave his successor with a surplus 16 times greater than that amount—\$6.7 billion.

"This budget exemplifies our dedication to fiscal responsibility, affordability, and opportunity for all New Jerseyans," **said Governor Murphy**. "Over nearly eight years in office, we have maintained a steadfast commitment to building a stronger and fairer New Jersey and righting our fiscal ship. I'm proud that this budget caps off an eight-year journey to turn our state around and delivers greater economic security and opportunity to every family. With the help of our legislative partners, we are moving New Jersey toward a brighter future for every child, student, worker, parent, and senior citizen who calls our great state home."

"The budget upholds our administration's promise to make sure that New Jersey remains the best state in the nation to live, work, raise a family, and retire," **said Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way**. "Over the past seven and a half years, we have made historic strides in making our state more affordable for hardworking residents and families through expanded tax relief and major investments in affordable housing, social services, and

education. This state budget is a direct result of the strong collaboration between Governor Murphy, Treasurer Muoio, and legislative leadership.”

“This budget is the culmination of a nearly eight-year effort to improve conditions for all New Jerseyans, building a fiscally stronger state that is more affordable for all,” **said State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio**. “As always, this budget could not have been completed without the hard work of my staff at the Department of the Treasury and particularly the folks at the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Revenue and Economic Analysis. I want to thank all of them for their tireless work, dedication, and exemplary professionalism over the past seven and a half years.”

“This is a fiscally responsible budget that puts New Jersey families first. At a time when working people are being left behind by misguided decisions in Washington, we’re making smart, strategic investments that deliver meaningful support, especially through historic property tax reductions, strong funding for public education, higher education, healthcare, transit, and a full pension payment,” **said Senate President Nick Scutari, Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz and Senator Paul Sarlo, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee**. “We’re grateful to Governor Murphy and our colleagues in the Legislature for coming together to enact a disciplined, forward-looking budget that safeguards essential services, expands opportunity, and reinforces New Jersey’s long-term fiscal strength.”

Fiscal Responsibility

The budget once again provides a full payment to the pension systems. This year’s \$7.2 billion payment marks the fifth year in a row Governor Murphy has fully funded the systems. Total pension contributions by the Murphy Administration are on track to exceed \$47 billion – nearly four times the \$12.2 billion in total contributions of the previous six governors combined.

With an eye toward ensuring New Jersey remains prepared for the future, this budget provides a surplus of \$6.7 billion, more than ten times larger than the average surplus under the previous administration.

Additionally, the budget includes \$788 million in funding from the Corporate Transit Fee dedicated to support NJ TRANSIT and builds upon \$1.358 billion in interest saved by taxpayers over the last four years by paying down debt and minimizing new debt taken on.

The budget also includes several tax policy changes, including increases for the highest tier of realty transfer fees, sports betting, and cigarettes and vaping, as well as a new exemption for small business investment and reforms to the Angel Investor Tax Credit.

These changes, along with the cuts in appropriations, help ensure that revenues are more closely in line with expenditures.

Affordability and Economic Security

Continuing efforts to make New Jersey affordable for all, this budget includes nearly \$4.3 billion in direct property tax relief for New Jersey homeowners and renters, including \$2.4 billion for the continuation of the popular ANCHOR program, which last year delivered more than \$2.2 billion in property tax relief to nearly two million residents. The budget also continues the Senior Freeze program, with a \$239 million allocation to benefit more than 235,000 taxpayers.

The budget also includes additional funding for the landmark Stay NJ program, allocating \$600 million in

resources to significantly reduce property taxes for more than 432,000 senior homeowners. Stay NJ is expected to launch for the 2025 tax season and will reimburse eligible seniors for up to 50 percent of their property tax bills.

Continuing the focus on making the state more affordable for working and middle-class families, the budget maintains recent expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit.

The tax relief included in this budget brings the total relief provided by the Murphy Administration and our partners in the Legislature to more than double any prior administration.

Continuing efforts to provide quality health services for all, a top priority of this administration, the budget includes \$165 million for the continuation of Cover All Kids; \$55.4 million for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold programs, helping more than 149,000 seniors and residents with disabilities; \$52 million for family planning services and reproductive health programs; and \$35.8 million for Family Connects NJ, which has provided nearly 2,500 free in-home nurse visits to families with newborns and is now available in 11 counties; and \$52 million for family planning services and reproductive health programs.

The proposal also includes \$10 million for a new initiative to provide State employees with full pay while they take family leave to care for a newborn, adopted, or fostered child.

Supporting the Next Generation of New Jerseyans

Last year, Governor Murphy became the first Governor to fully fund the K-12 school funding formula. This budget builds on that commitment, providing record-high school funding in FY2026. The budget includes a record \$12.1 billion for K-12 schools, a nearly \$4 billion increase since FY2018. This budget also addresses feedback from school districts by capping losses in major school aid categories and reducing input volatility, ensuring no district sees a steep reduction in aid from one year to the next. A district's K-12 State aid will not decrease by an amount greater than 3% of the prior year's State aid in the four primary categories: equalization, special education, security, and transportation.

The budget also proposes \$7.5 million in new grant funding to support districts in providing high-impact tutoring to students in need of extra academic support, as well as \$3 million in incentive grants for schools that want to go entirely phone-free, giving students the best opportunity to learn without distraction.

Continuing the push for universal pre-school throughout New Jersey, the FY2026 budget proposes \$1.27 billion for Preschool Education Aid. Since 2018, the Murphy Administration has expanded pre-K to 229 school districts and created nearly 20,000 new seats.

Building New Jersey's Future

In an effort to fortify our transportation infrastructure, this budget includes \$1.23 billion for critical investments in State and local highway and bridge projects, and another \$767 million for NJ TRANSIT to begin to fully modernize its fleet.

To ensure stability and future success for New Jersey's institutions of higher education, this budget provides \$755.2 million in institutional support for State colleges and universities, as well as \$169.1 million for county colleges and \$8.6 million for independent institutions of higher education in New Jersey. This totals \$932.9 million, a nearly 50% increase over the \$629.6 million in funding provided in FY2018.

The budget agreement also provides for \$250 million in bonding for capital grants to higher education institutions. This builds on the \$400 million in capital grants announced in 2023.

The budget also sets aside \$222 million from the Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund for a critical investment in the construction of a new correctional facility to replace the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women.

An additional one-page policy summary on the central commitments of the FY2026 budget can be found online [here](#).

Governor Murphy signed the Appropriations Act into law today:

S-2026/A-5800 (Sarlo/Pintor Marin, Park) – w/LINE ITEM Appropriates \$58,782,119,000 in State funds and \$31,007,261,743 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2026

[Line Item Veto Message](#)

[Line Item Veto Summary](#)

[Revenue Certification](#)

In addition to the Appropriations Act, Governor Murphy also signed the following bills into law today:

S-4620/A-5879 (McKnight, Mukherji/McCann Stamato) - Amends Fiscal Year 2025 annual appropriations act to assign distribution of Old Courthouse asbestos remediation funding from Hudson County to Jersey City

S-2788wGR/A-4569 (Cruz-Perez, Turner/Freiman, Katz, Simmons) - Appropriates \$128.241 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

A-5100/S-3991 (Rodriguez/Stack) - Re-appropriates unexpended balance of FY 2024 appropriation for Town of West New York to support recreation center; appropriates \$3 million for Town of West New York – Recreation Center to restore lapsed FY 2024 funding

A-5807/S-4655 (Pintor Marin/Sarlo) - Makes FY2025 supplemental appropriations of \$142,615,000; adds various language provisions to FY2025 Appropriations Act

A-5803/SCS for S-3064 (Bagolie/McKeon, Turner) - Modifies tax on certain forms of online gaming and wagering

ACS for A-4455/SCS for S-4503 (Freiman, Schaer, Karabinchak /Sarlo, Mukherji) - Allows exemption from New Jersey gross income of certain capital gains from sale or exchange of qualified small business stock

A-5805/SCS for S-4659 and 4661 (Venezia/Sarlo, Vitale) - Modifies tax rate on certain nicotine products

A-5804/S-4666 (Reynolds-Jackson/Wimberly) - Modifies payer of additional fees and taxes imposed on certain real property transfers; modifies fees and taxes imposed on property transfers valued over \$2 million

A-5809/S-4656 (Murphy/Vitale) - "Healthcare Finance Enhancement Act

S-3189/A-2365 (Zwicker, Sarlo/Tully, Murphy, DePhillips) - Makes various changes to "New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act" and Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program; repeals "New Jersey Ignite Act"

S-4654/A-5878 (Scutari, A.M. Bucco/Schnall, Inganamort) - Provides for publication of required legal notices on government Internet websites and through certain online news publications

A-5801/S-4692 (Freiman/Sarlo) - Appropriates \$247,128,000 from "New Jersey Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund"; establishes process for authorizing future appropriations for debt defeasance and capital projects

A-5810/S-4660 (Pintor Marin, Dolon, Bagolie/McKeon, McKnight) - Promotes equity in health insurance appeal process

S-4632/A-5812 (Scutari, Ruiz/Schaer) - Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets

S-3618/A-4926 (Smith, Greenstein/Calabrese, Tully, Haider) - Directs DEP and DOT to establish "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"

S-3933/A-5075 (Ruiz, McKnight/Swain, Morales, Bagolie) - Establishes School Supervisor Mentorship Pilot Program; appropriates \$500,000

A-5077/S-4375 (Morales, Bagolie, Carter/Ruiz, Zwicker) - Extends statutory pause on collection of student growth objective data

A-5795/S-4619 (Pintor Marin, Freiman, Drulis/Zwicker) - Modifies certain provisions of "New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Act"

S-4618/A-5827 (Mukherji, Gopal/Pintor Marin, Peterpaul, Donlon) - Modifies certain requirements and award availability under film and digital media content production tax credit program

S-4122/A-5257 (Burzichelli/Stanley, Egan) - Revises apportionment of State lottery contributions