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(Sports and Exposition Authority--authorize new project--Atlantic City Convention Center)

ABL.

5:10-3 et seq.

LAWS OF:

1991

CHAPTER: 375

BILL NO:

S3773

SPONSOR(S):

Gormley and others

DATE INTRODUCED:

December 9, 1991

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:

SENATE:

Revenue, Finance & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:

Yes

Amendments during passage

denoted by asterisks

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:

January 10, 1992

SENATE:

January 9, 1992

DATE OF APPROVAL:

January 13, 1992

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

ONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

No

SENATE:

Yes

FISCAL NOTE:

No

VETO MESSAGE:

No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

See newspaper clippings--attached

KBG:pp

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§§12, 14 C.5₹10-14.3 & -14.4 §§13, 15 C.5:10-5.1 & C.5:10-5.2 \$16 - Repealer §§17 - Note to §§4-11, 16

P.L.1991, CHAPTER 375, approved January 13, 1992 1991 Senate No. 3773 (First Reprint)

AN ACT authorizing the New Jersey Sports and Exposition 1 2 Authority to undertake certain projects, including a convention 3 center project in Atlantic City and providing for the 4 application of certain tax revenues to that project; amending P.L.1971, c.137 and P.L.1981, c.459, supplementing P.L.1971, 5 c.137 and repealing sections 10 and 15 of P.L.1981, c.459. 6

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the 8 Q State of New Jersey:

- 10 1. Section 3 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-3) is amended to read 11
- 12 3. The following words or terms as used in this act shall have the following meaning unless a different meaning clearly appears 14 from the context:
- "Act" means this New Jersey Sports and Exposition 15 16 Authority Law.
- b. "Authority" means the New Jersey Sports and Exposition 17 18 Authority created by section 4 of this act.
- 19 c. "Bonds" means bonds issued by the authority pursuant to the 20 act.
- d. "Meadowlands complex" means the sports and exposition 21 project authorized by paragraph (1) of subsection a. of section 6 22 23 of the act.
- e. "Notes" means notes issued by the authority pursuant to the 24 25 act.
- 26 "Projects" means and includes any project which the 27 authority is authorized to undertake pursuant to paragraphs 1 through [7] 10 of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 28 29 (C.5:10-6).
- g. "State" means the State of New Jersey. 30
- 31 "Hackensack meadowlands" means the Hackensack Meadowlands District as delineated in P.L.1968, c.404, s.4 32
- (C.13:17-4).33
- "Meadowlands Commission" 34 means the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission created by P.L.1968,
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"Racing Commission" means the New Jersey Racing 37 38 Commission created by P.L.1940, c.17.

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. Hatter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows: Senate SRF committee amendments adopted January 6, 1992.

k. "Credit agreement" as used herein includes loan agreement, revolving credit agreement, agreement establishing a line of credit, letter of credit, reimbursement agreement, interest exchange agreement, insurance contract, surety bond, commitment to purchase bonds, purchase or sale agreements, or commitments or other contracts or agreements authorized and approved by the authority in connection with the authorization, issuance, security, or payment of bonds.

l. "Luxury tax" means the tax levied and collected by the city of Atlantic City, county of Atlantic, pursuant to P.L. 1947, c.71 (C.40:48-8.15 et seq.).

m. "Convention center project" means the project authorized by paragraph 9 of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6).

15 (cf: P.L.1984, c.215, s.2)

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- 2. Section 4 of P.L.1971, C.137 (C.5:10-4) is amended to read as follows:
 - 4. a. There is hereby established in the Department of Community Affairs a public body corporate and politic, with corporate succession, to be known as the "New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority." The authority is hereby constituted as an instrumentality of the State exercising public and essential governmental functions, and the exercise by the authority of the powers conferred by the act shall be deemed and held to be an essential governmental function of the State and the application of the revenue derived from the projects to the purposes provided in this act shall be deemed and held to be applied in support of government.
 - b. The authority shall consist of the State Treasurer, the Attorney General, the President of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, and a member of the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, to be appointed by the Governor, who shall be members ex officio, and [seven] nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for terms of four years, provided that the members of the authority (other than the ex officio members) first appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year, two years, three years and four years, respectively. Each members shall hold office for the term of his appointment and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible for reappointment. Any vacancy in the membership occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.
 - c. Each appointed member may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause, after a public hearing, and may be suspended by the Governor pending the completion of such hearing. Each member before entering upon his duties shall take and subscribe

an oath to perform the duties of his office faithfully, impartially and justly to the best of his ability. A record of such oaths shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

d. The chairman shall be appointed by the Governor from the members of the authority other than ex officio members, and the members of the authority shall elect one of their number as vice chairman thereof. The authority shall elect a secretary and a treasurer, who need not be members, and the same person may be elected to serve both as secretary and treasurer. The powers of the authority shall be vested in the members thereof in office from time to time and [six] seveń members of the authority shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the authority at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of at least [six] seven members of the authority. No vacancy in the membership of the authority shall impair the right of a quorum of the members to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the authority.

e. Each member and the treasurer of the authority shall execute a bond to be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of such member or treasurer, as the case may be, in such form and amount as may be prescribed by the [Comptroller] Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. Such bonds shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. At all times thereafter the members and treasurer of the authority shall maintain such bonds in full force and effect. All costs of such bonds shall be borne by the authority.

f. The members of the authority shall serve without compensation, but the authority shall reimburse its members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, no officer or employee of the State shall be deemed to have forfeited or shall forfeit his office or employment or any benefits or emoluments thereof by reason of his acceptance of the office of ex officio member of the authority or his services therein.

g. Each ex officio member of the authority may designate an officer or employee of his department or agency to represent him at meetings of the authority, and each such designee may lawfully vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member for whom he constitutes the designee. Any such designation shall be in writing delivered to the authority and shall continue in effect until revoked or amended by writing delivered to the authority.

h. The authority may be dissolved by act of the Legislature on condition that the authority has no debts or obligations outstanding or that provision has been made for the payment or retirement of such debts or obligations. Upon any such dissolution of the authority all property, funds and assets thereof shall be

vested in the State.

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2 i. A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the authority shall be forthwith delivered by and under the certification of the secretary thereof to the Governor. No action taken at such meeting by the authority shall have force or effect until 15 days after such copy of the minutes shall have been so delivered unless during such 15-day period the Governor shall 8 approve the same, in which case such action shall become effective upon such approval. If, in said 15-day period, the Governor returns such copy of the minutes with veto of any action taken by the authority or any member thereof at such meeting, such action shall be null and void and of no effect. The 13 powers conferred in this subsection i. upon the Governor shall be exercised with due regard for the rights of the holders of bonds and notes of the authority at any time outstanding, and nothing 16 in, or done pursuant to, this subsection i. shall in any way limit, 17 restrict or alter the obligation or powers of the authority or any representative or officer of the authority to carry out and 18 19 perform in every detail each and every covenant, agreement or 20 contract at any time made or entered into by or on behalf of the authority with respect to its bonds or notes or for the benefit, protection or security of the holders thereof. 22

23 (cf: P.L.1985, c.500, s.1)

- 3. Section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6) is amended to read as follows:
- 6. a. The authority, pursuant to the provisions of the act, is hereby authorized and empowered, either alone or in conjunction with others, and provided that, in the case of an arrangement with respect to any of the projects set forth in this section which shall be in conjunction with others, the authority shall have sufficient right and power to carry out the public purposes set forth in this act:
- (1) To establish, develop, construct, operate, acquire, own, manage, promote, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve and otherwise effectuate, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, a project to be located in the Hackensack meadowlands upon a site not to exceed 750 acres and upon a site or sites outside of that acreage, but either immediately contiguous thereto or immediately across any public road which borders that acreage, consisting of one or more stadiums, coliseums, arenas, pavilions, stands, field houses, fields, recreation centers, courts, gymnasiums, playing clubhouses, a racetrack for the holding of horse race meetings, and other buildings, structures, facilities, properties and appurtenances related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to a complex suitable for the holding of athletic contests or other sporting events, or trade shows, exhibitions, spectacles, public meetings, entertainment events or other

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expositions, including, but not limited to, driveways, roads, approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation areas, lodging facilities, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems and facilities, and equipment, furnishings, and all other structures and appurtenant facilities, related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of that project or any facility thereof.

- (2) To establish, develop, construct, acquire, lease or own, operate, manage, promote, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve and otherwise effectuate, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, a project, at a site within the State of New Jersey, consisting of a baseballstadium and buildings, structures, facilities, properties appurtenances related thereto, or incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to a complex suitable for the holding of professional baseball games and other athletic contests or sporting events, or trade shows, exhibitions, spectacles, public meetings, entertainment events or other expositions, such project to include driveways, roads, approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation areas, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems and facilities, and equipment, furnishings and all other structures and appurtenant facilities related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of that project or any facility thereof.
- (3) To establish, develop, construct, acquire, lease or own, operate, manage, promote, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve and otherwise effectuate, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, projects located within the State of New Jersey, but outside of the meadowlands complex, consisting of aquariums and the buildings, structures, facilities, properties and appurtenances related thereto, or incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to those aquariums, such project to include driveways, roads, approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation areas, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems and facilities, and aquipment, furnishings and all other structures and appurtenant facilities related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of that project or any facility thereof. To provide for a project authorized under this paragraph:
 - (a) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1988, c.172.)
- (b) The authority is authorized to enter into agreements with the State Treasurer providing for the acquisition and construction of an aquarium by the authority, including the land necessary for the aquarium, and the costs thereof, ownership of the aquarium and its land which shall be conveyed to the State upon completion, and the operation by the authority of the aquarium pursuant to a lease or other agreement with the State containing such terms and conditions as the State Treasurer may establish



prior to the acquisition and construction by the authority of the aquarium and the disbursements of funds therefor. The State Treasurer is authorized to enter into a lease or other agreement to effectuate the provisions of this subparagraph.

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(4) To establish, develop, construct, acquire, own, operate, manage, promote, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve and otherwise effectuate, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, a project consisting of an exposition or entertainment center or hotel or office complex, including any buildings. structures. properties and appurtenances related thereto. incidental thereto. necessary therefor, complementary thereto, such project to include driveways, roads, approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation areas, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems, and equipment, furnishings and all other structures and appurtenances related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to, the purposes of that project. A project authorized under this paragraph may be located within, immediately contiguous to, or immediately across any public road which borders the site of any other project of the authority, except the site of a racetrack authorized by paragraph (5) of this subsection and acquired by the authority prior to 1986.

... (5) To establish, develop, construct, acquire, own, operate, 23_ 24 manage, promote, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve 25 and otherwise effectuate, either directly or indirectly through 26 lessees, licensees or agents, projects consisting of (a) racetrack 27 facilities located within the State of New Jersey, but outside of the meadowlands complex, (b) their contiguous properties, and (c) 28 29 their auxiliary facilities, including, without limitation, pavilions, stands, field houses, clubhouses, training tracks for horses, 30 racetracks for the holding of horse race meetings, fairgrounds, 31 32 other exposition facilities, and other buildings, structures, facilities, properties and appurtenances related to, incidental to, 33 necessary for, or complementary to a complex suitable for the 34 holding of horse race meetings, other sporting events, or trade 35 shows, exhibitions, spectacles, public meetings, entertainment 36 events or other expositions, including, but not limited to, 37 driveways, roads, approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation 38 facilities, vending facilities, restaurants, 39 areas. lodging transportation structures, systems and facilities, equipment, 40 furnishings, and all other structures and appurtenant facilities 41 related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the 42 purposes of any of those projects or any facility thereof. 43

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the acquisition of any existing racetrack facility in and licensed by the State of New Jersey shall be permitted on the condition that payments equivalent to all municipal, school board and county taxes due to each entity shall be paid by the authority to the extent and in

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accordance with the same payment schedule as taxes would have been paid each year, as though the racetrack facility remained in private ownership. In the event the authority conveys lands or other parts of the racetrack facility to others, the authority shall receive a reduction of such payments commensurate with the amount required to be paid by the subsequent owner of the lands and improvements disposed of by the authority. In addition, the authority shall be responsible for paying all existing local franchise fees, license and parking tax fees in effect at the time of the acquisition.

- (6) To establish, develop, acquire, own, operate, manage, promote and otherwise effectuate, in whole or in part, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, projects consisting of events, expositions, teams, team franchises or membership in professional sports leagues.
- (7) To establish, develop, construct, acquire, own, operate, manage, promote, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve and otherwise effectuate, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, projects consisting of facilities, at a site or sites within the State of New Jersey and either within or without the meadowlands complex, that are related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the accomplishment or purpose of any project of the authority authorized by this section, including any buildings, structures, properties and appurtenances related thereto, incidental thereto, necessary therefor, or complementary thereto, such projects to include driveways. roads, approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation areas, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems, and equipment, furnishings and all other structures and appurtenances related to, incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of those projects.
- (8) To establish, develop, acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve and otherwise effectuate for transfer to, and for use and operation by, Rutgers, the State University, either directly or indirectly through lessees, licensees or agents, facilities located or to be located on property owned, leased, or otherwise used by Rutgers, the State University, consisting of Isports and exposition facilities] an upgraded and expanded football stadium and a new track and field, soccer and lacrosse facility1 and the buildings, structures, properties and appurtenances related thereto, or incidental to, necessary for, or complimentary to 1[those sports and exposition facilities] the football stadium and track and field, soccer and lacrosse facility¹, such facilities to include driveways, laccess roads, approaches, parking areas, recreation areas, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems and equipment, furnishings and all other structures and appurtenances related or incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of those

facilities 1; provided however that construction shall not begin on the expansion of the seating capacity of Rutgers Stadium until the Commissioner of Transportation certifies that all funding necessary to complete the Route 18 project in Piscataway Township has been appropriated and construction has begun on the Route 18 project in Piscataway Township under the Department of Transportation's capital program 1.

- (9) To acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise, and to develop, construct, operate, own, lease, manage, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve, enlarge or otherwise effectuate, either directly or through lessees, licensees or agents, a convention center project in the city of Atlantic City, Atlantic County, consisting of the existing convention hall and a new convention hall or center, and associated parking areas and railroad terminal facilities and including the leasing of adjacent land for hotel facilities. In connection therewith, the authority is authorized to:
- (a) Assume existing leasehold or other contractual obligations pertaining to any such facilities or properties or to make provision for the payment or retirement of any debts and obligations of the governmental entity operating any such convention hall or center or of any bonds or other obligations payable from and secured by a lien on or pledge of the luxury tax revenues;
- (b) Make loans or payments in aid of construction with respect to infrastructure and site development for properties located in the area between the sites of the existing convention hall and a new convention center or located contiguous to or across any public road which borders the area;
- (c) Convert the existing convention hall or any facilities, structures or properties thereof, or any part thereof, not disposed of by the authority, to any sports, exposition, exhibition, or entertainment use or to use as a forum for public events or meetings, or to any other use which the authority shall determine to be consistent with its operation of the convention center project.
- (10) To provide a feasibility study for the use and development of the existing convention center in the city of Asbury Park, county of Monmouth ¹ and to provide a feasibility study for the construction, use and development of a convention center or recreational facility in any other municipality ¹.
- 1(11) To provide funding to public or private institutions of higher education in the State to establish, develop, acquire, construct, reconstruct or improve facilities located or to be located on property owned, leased, or otherwise used by an institution, consisting of sports facilities and the buildings, structures, properties and appurtenances related thereto, or incidental to, necessary for, or complimentary to those sports facilities, such facilities to include driveways, access roads,

approaches, parking areas, parks, recreation areas, vending facilities, restaurants, transportation structures, systems and equipment, furnishings and all other structures and appurtenances related or incidental to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of those facilities.

- b. The authority, pursuant to the provisions of the act, is authorized (1) to make, as part of any of the projects, capital contributions to others for transportation and other facilities, and accommodations for the public's use of any of those projects, (2) to lease any part of any of those project sites not occupied or to be occupied by the facilities of any of those projects, for purposes determined by the authority to be consistent with or related to the purposes of those projects, including, but not limited to, hotels and other accommodations for transients and other facilities related to or incidental to any of those projects, and (3) to sell or dispose of any real or personal property. including, but not limited to, such portion of the site of any of those projects not occupied or to be occupied by the facilities of any of those projects, at not less than the fair market value of the property, except in the case of sale or disposition to the State, any political subdivision of the State or any agency or instrumentality of the State or any political subdivision of the State.
- c. Revenues, moneys or other funds, if any, derived from the operation or ownership of the meadowlands complex, including the conduct of horse race meetings, shall be applied, in accordance with the resolution or resolutions authorizing or relating to the issuance of bonds or notes of the authority, to the following purposes and in the following order:
- (1) The costs of operation and maintenance of the meadowlands complex and reserves therefor;
- (2) Principal, sinking fund installments and redemption premiums of and interest on any bonds or notes of the authority payable from such revenues, moneys or other funds and issued for the purposes of the meadowlands complex or for the purposes of refunding the same, including reserves and payments with respect to credit agreements therefor;
- (3) The costs of any major or extraordinary repairs, renewals or replacements with respect to the meadowlands complex or incidental improvements thereto, not paid pursuant to paragraph (1) above, including reserves therefor;
 - (4) Payments required to be made pursuant to section 18b.;
 - (5) Payments authorized to be made pursuant to section 18c.;
- (6) Except [as] to the extent payments with respect to bonds or notes are provided with priority in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, payments required to be made in accordance with the resolution authorizing or relating to the issuance of bonds or notes of the authority, for the purposes of any project

authorized by this act, including payments and reserves with respect to any bonds or notes of the authority with respect to the meadowlands complex which are not provided with priority in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection;

- (7) Payments required to be made to repay any obligation incurred by the authority to the State;
- (8) The balance remaining after application in accordance with the above shall be deposited in the General State Fund, provided that (a) there shall be appropriated for authorized State purposes from the amount so deposited that amount which shall be calculated by the State Treasurer to be the debt service savings realized with respect to the refinancing of the initial project as defined in section 1 of P.L.1973, c.286 (C.5:10-14.1) at the meadowlands complex, by the issuance of bonds of the authority guaranteed by the State, and (b) after such appropriation, 40% of any balance remaining from the amounts so deposited shall be appropriated to the Meadowlands Commission for any of its purposes authorized by P.L.1968, c.404, and any amendments or supplements thereto.
- d. Revenues, moneys or other funds, if any, derived from the operation or ownership of any project other than the meadowlands complex or the convention center project, and other than a baseball stadium project or an office complex project located on the site of a baseball stadium shall be applied for such purposes, in such manner and subject to such conditions as shall be provided in the resolution authorizing or relating to the issuance of bonds or notes of the authority for the purposes of such project, and the balance, if any, remaining after such application may be applied, to the extent not contrary to or inconsistent with the resolution, in the following order (1) to the purposes of the meadowlands complex, unless otherwise agreed upon by the State Treasurer and the authority, (2) to the purposes of any other project of the authority; and, the balance remaining, if any, shall be deposited in the General Fund.
- e. Revenues, moneys or other funds, if any, derived from the operation, ownership, or leasing of a baseball stadium project or an office complex project located on the site of a baseball stadium shall be applied for the purposes, in the manner and subject to the conditions as shall be provided in the resolution authorizing or relating to the issuance of bonds or notes of the authority for the purposes of a baseball stadium project or an office complex project located on the site of a baseball stadium, if any, and the balance, if any, remaining after such application shall be applied, to the extent not contrary to or inconsistent with the resolution, to the following purposes and in the following order:
- (1) The costs of operation and maintenance of a baseball stadium project and an office complex project located on the site

of a baseball stadium and reserves therefor;

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- (2) Payments made to repay the bonded indebtedness incurred by the authority for the purposes of a baseball stadium project or an office complex project located on the site of a baseball 5 stadium;
 - (3) Payments equivalent to an amount required to be made by the State for payments in lieu of taxes pursuant to P.L.1977. c.272 (C.54:4-2.2a et seq.);
 - (4) The balance remaining after application in accordance with the above shall be deposited in the General Fund.
 - f. Revenues, moneys or other funds, if any, derived from the operation, ownership or leasing of the convention center project shall be applied to the costs of operating and maintaining the convention center project and to the other purposes set forth in this subsection as shall be provided by resolution of the authority.

Luxury tax revenues paid to the authority by the State Treasurer pursuant to section 14 of P.L.199, c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as this bill) shall be deposited by the authority in a separate_fund or account and applied to the following purposes and in the following order:

- (1) To pay the principal, sinking fund installments and redemption premiums of and interest on any bonds or notes of the authority, including bonds or notes of the authority issued for the purpose of refunding bonds or notes, issued for purposes of (i) the initial acquisition of the existing properties which will constitute part of the convention center project, if the bonds or notes shall be payable under the terms of the resolution of the authority relating thereto from luxury tax revenues, or (ii) providing improvements, additions or replacements to the convention center project, if the bonds or notes shall be payable under the terms of the resolution of the authority relating thereto from luxury tax revenues; and to pay any amounts due from the authority under any credit agreement entered into by the authority in connection with the bonds or notes.
- (2) To pay the costs of operation and maintenance of the convention center project [, including without limitation amounts to meet obligations assumed by the authority with respect to the railroad terminal and other facilities located at the site or sites thereof]1.
- (3) To establish and maintain a working capital and maintenance reserve fund for the convention center project in an amount as shall be determined by the authority to be necessary.
- (4) To repay to the State those amounts paid by the State with respect to bonds or notes of the authority issued for the purposes of the convention center project.
- (5) The balance of any luxury tax revenues not required for any of the foregoing purposes and remaining at the end of any calendar year shall be paid to the State Treasurer for application

to purposes in the city of Atlantic City pursuant to section 5 of P.L. 1981, c. 461 (C. 40:48-8.30 (a)).

The authority may pledge the luxury tax revenues paid to it as provided for in section 14 of P.L.199, c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as this bill) as security for the payment of the principal of and interest or premium on its bonds or notes issued for the purposes set forth above in paragraph (1) of this subsection f. in the same manner, to the same extent and with the same effect as the pledge of any of its other revenues, receipts and funds authorized by this act.

(cf: P.L.1988, c.172, s.1.)

- 4. Section 1 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-29) is amended to read as follows:
- 1. The Legislature finds that the tourist, resort and convention industry of Atlantic City has traditionally made an important contribution to the economic vitality of this State; that the recent revitalization of that industry as a result of the authorization of casino gaming in Atlantic City has resulted in significant economic benefits not only to the residents of the city and its immediate environs, but to all of the residents of the State in the form of increased business and employment opportunities and augmented State and local revenues; and that the future growth of this industry will depend in part upon the provision and operation of an attractive convention center in Atlantic City and the provision of an adequate mechanism whereby the interests and efforts of the State, the city and the private sector may be effectively coordinated and the financial soundness of a convention center assured.

To this end, the Legislature declares the establishment of an authority [responsible for the promotion, operation and maintenance of] having the requisite power to promote, operate and maintain a convention center in Atlantic City under the supervision of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to be in the public interest of the citizens of this State.

35 (cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.1)

- 5. Section 4 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-32) is amended to read as follows:
- 4. a. The authority shall consist of seven members [to be appointed as follows:
 - (1) One resident of the State, to be appointed by the Governor;
- (2) One resident of the city of Atlantic City to be appointed by the governing body of that city;
- (3) Two public members, to be appointed by the Governor upon the nomination of the Casino Hotel Association of Atlantic City;
- 45 (4) Two public members, to be appointed by the Governor upon 46 the nomination of the Hotel-Motel Association of Atlantic City; 47 and
 - (5) One public member, to be appointed by the Governor upon

the nomination of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, who shall not be an employee or associated with the operation of any casino hotel, hotel or motel.

b. Appointments of public members pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of subsection a. of this section shall be made from a list of three different names submitted to the Governor by the nominating entity for each appointment; except that for the first appointments to be made a list of four different names shall be submitted for the two public members to be appointed pursuant to paragraph (3) of that subsection, a list of four shall be submitted for the two members to be appointed pursuant to paragraph (4) of that subsection, and a list of three shall be submitted for the one member to be appointed pursuant to paragraph (5) of that subsection.

- c. Members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection a. of this section shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Public]. Any member holding office on the date this section becomes effective shall continue as a member until replaced in accordance with the procedures hereinafter set forth, provided that no such member shall hold office beyond June 30, 1992. As soon as practicable after the date on which this section becomes effective, vacancies in the membership of the authority shall be filled and new appointments to the membership of the authority shall be made as provided in this section so that the membership of the authority shall consist of the following:
- (1) Six public members, to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
- (2) The President of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, who shall be an ex officio member.

b. Vacancies to be filled in the membership of the authority and any new appointments made to such membership after the date on which this section becomes effective shall be filled or made so as to provide, as promptly as practicable consistent with the membership provisions set forth in subsection a. of this section, for the incumbency of the member set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection a. of this section and then the incumbency of the members set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section. The ex-officio member of the authority may designate an officer or employee of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to represent the ex officio member at meetings of the authority and that designee may lawfully vote and otherwise act on behalf of the ex officio member. Any such designation shall be in writing delivered to the authority and shall continue in effect until revoked or amended by writing delivered to the authority

c. No more than 3 of the public members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) [(3), (4) or (5)] of [that] subsection a. of this

section shall be affiliated with the same political party. The 2 public members of the authority shall serve for a term of 5 years 3 and until a successor shall have been appointed and qualified; except that of the public members first appointed pursuant to the 5 provisions of P.L.199, c. (now before the Legislature as this 6 bill), the Governor shall designate upon appointment: [one 7 member appointed pursuant to paragraph (3) of that subsection to 8 serve for a term of 5 years and one for a term of 3 years; one 9 member appointed pursuant to paragraph (4) of that subsection to 10 serve for a term of 4 years and one for a term of 2 years; and the 11 member appointed pursuant to paragraph (5) of that subsection to serve for a term of 1 year] two members for a term of 5 years, 12 13 one for a term of 4 years, one for a term of 3 years, one for a term of 2 years and one for a term of 1 year. 14 15

(cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.4)

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- 6. Section 6 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-34) is amended to read as follows:
- 6. a. The authority shall not be constituted and shall not take action or adopt motions or regulations until all original authorized members shall have been appointed and qualified. The powers of the authority shall be vested in the members thereof and a majority of the total authorized membership of the authority shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the authority at any meeting by the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum, unless in any case the bylaws of the authority or any of the provisions of this act shall require a larger number. The authority may designate one or more of its agents, officers or employees to exercise, under its supervision and control, such administrative functions, powers and duties as it may deem proper, consistent with the provisions of this act and with the bylaws of the authority. No vacancy in the membership of the authority shall affect the right of the quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the authority.
- b. The chairman of the authority shall be appointed by the Governor, and the authority shall designate one of its members to serve as the [chairman of the authority, and one to serve as] vice-chairman. [The] Subject to approval by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, the authority shall appoint an executive director who shall serve as its chief administrative officer. The executive director shall 1[serve at the pleasure of the authority, and shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of his office, as those duties shall be prescribed by the bylaws of the authority.
- (cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.6) 45
- 7. Section 8 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-36) is amended to 46 47 read as follows:
 - 8. A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the

- authority shall be forthwith transmitted to the Covernor, the
- 2 presiding officers of each house of the Legislature, and the
- 3 respective clerks of the city of Atlantic City and the county of
- 4 Atlantic]. No action taken at that meeting by the authority shall
- 5 have force or effect until 15 days after the copy of the minutes
- 6 shall have been so delivered unless during the 15-day period the
- 7 Governor shall approve the same, in which case the action shall
- 8 become effective upon that approval. If, in the 15-day period,
- 9 the Governor returns the copy of the minutes with veto of any
- 10 action taken by the authority or any member thereof at that
- meeting, that action shall be null and of no effect.
- 12 (cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.8)

- 8. Section 9 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-37) is amended to read as follows:
- 9. The authority shall [enter into a contract with any political subdivision of the State which owns or leases any convention center, convention hall and related or ancillary facilities for the operation thereof. The convention center, convention hall and related or ancillary facilities shall be in a municipality wherein casino gambling has been duly authorized, except that the authority may operate, pursuant to contract, related or ancillary facilities necessary to the operation of a convention center or hall, which are not located within the borders of a municipality wherein casino gambling is authorized, but which are located within the same county as that municipality.
- Any contract entered into pursuant to this section shall not exceed 5 years in duration. The first contract so entered into shall have an effective date of January 1, 1983. A contract shall prescribe the use or disposition of any revenues resulting from the operation of any convention center, convention hall and related or ancillary facilities. The provisions of any contract entered into shall not conflict with any bond resolution or trust agreement relating to any facilities subject to the terms of the contract. have the power to operate the convention center project of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority in the city of Atlantic City under a contract with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority containing the terms and provisions as the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority shall determine to be in furtherance of the purposes of this act.
- (cf: P.L.1982, c.104, s.1)
- 9. Section 12 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-40) is amended to read as follows:
 - 12. In addition to the powers granted to the authority in [sections 10 and 11 of] this act, the authority, consistent with the terms of any contract entered into pursuant to section 9 of this act, may:
- 47 a. Make and alter bylaws for its organization and internal 48 management and, subject to the restrictions of any contract

entered into pursuant to section 9 of this act, make rules and regulations with respect to its operations;

- b. Adopt an official seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
- c. Sue and be sued in its own name:

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- d. Make and enter into all contracts or agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;
- e. Enter into agreements or other transactions with and accept grants and the cooperation of the United States or any agency thereof or any State or local agency in furtherance of the purposes of this act, and do anything necessary in order to avail itself of this aid and cooperation;
- f. Solicit, receive and accept aid, loans or contributions from any source of money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied to carry out the purposes of this act subject to the conditions upon which this aid, these loans and contributions shall be made, including but not limited to grants from any department or agency of the United States or any State or local agency for any purpose consistent with this act;
- g. Acquire, own, hold, sell, exchange, lease or otherwise dispose of real or personal property or any interest therein in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this act:
- h. [Appoint] Subject to approval by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, appoint such officers, employees, and agents as it may require for the performance of its duties, and fix their compensation, promote and discharge them, all without regard to the provisions of Title [11 of the Revised Statutes] 11A of the New Jersey Statutes;
- i. Provide advisory, consultative and technical assistance and advice to any person, firm, association, partnership or corporation, either public or private, in order to carry out the purposes of this act;
- j. Subject to the provisions of any contract entered into pursuant to section 9 of this act, to invest moneys of the authority not required for immediate use in those obligations, securities and other investments as the authority shall deem prudent;
- k. Procure insurance coverage in such types and amounts and from such insurers as may be advisable;
- Engage the services of attorneys, accountants, marketing analysts and financial experts and such other advisors, consultants and agents as may be necessary in its judgment, and fix their compensation;
- m. Maintain an office at such place or places in the city of Atlantic City as it may designate;
- n. Advertise and promote the tourist, resort, convention and casino gaming industries of the city of Atlantic [county] City and for these purposes establish funds, adopt and collect fees and

other charges and make expenditures consistent with the provisions of the operating contract with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority; and

o. Do any act necessary to the exercise of these powers or reasonably implied therefrom.

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Notwithstanding, the provisions of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-29 et seq.) or any other law to the contrary, any contracts or agreements to be entered into by the authority in the exercise of the powers granted to the authority shall be subject to prior approval by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

(cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.12)

 10. Section 14 P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-42) is amended to read as follows:

14. a. As soon as it is practicable after the appointment and qualification of the members of the authority, and annually thereafter, at least 45 days preceding the commencement of the authority's fiscal year on July 1 of each year, the authority shall prepare a proposed budget for its operations and activities for the ensuing fiscal year [and introduce the budget by resolution. The budget shall become effective as provided in section 15 of this act].

b. The budget shall set forth anticipated revenues for the ensuing fiscal year and the sources thereof, and appropriations for the same period, which appropriations shall not exceed the anticipated revenues. No revenue from any source shall be anticipated unless it can be reasonably expected to be realized during the fiscal year to which the budget applies. Appropriations shall be segregated as salaries and wages, contractual other expenses, and noncontractual other expenses.

c. An appropriation for "anticipated operating deficit of preceding year" shall appear in each annual budget in the amount by which the liabilities and disbursements of the authority for expenditures in the next preceding fiscal year exceed or are likely to exceed receipts and other revenue in that year, subtracting any expenditures provided for by surplus anticipated in the budget.

d. No proposed budget [required] prepared by the authority pursuant to this section shall be approved [as provided in section 15 of this act,] by the authority unless it is in compliance with the terms of any contract authorized pursuant to section 9 of this act and [with the terms of any bond resolution or trust agreement relating to the financing of facilities operated by the authority] has been approved by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

45 <u>Authority</u>. 46 (cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.14)

11. Section 16 P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-44) is amended to read as follows:

16. On or before the last day of the third month following the close of each fiscal year, the authority shall make an annual report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the Governor, the Legislature, [the chief executive officer and the governing body of the county of Atlantic and any political subdivision with which a contract has been entered into pursuant to section 9 of this act] and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. The report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year. The director shall audit the books and accounts of the authority for each fiscal year, and a copy of that audit shall be filed with the Governor, the Legislature, [the chief executive officer and the governing body of the county of Atlantic and any political subdivision with which a contract has been entered into pursuant to section 9 of this act] and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

(cf: P.L.1981, c.459, s.16)

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 12. (New section) a. The State Treasurer shall establish a special fund to be known as the "Sports Authority Fund" and shall pay into the fund amounts from the Ceneral Fund as shall be necessary to pay the principal and interest on bonds or notes of the authority issued pursuant to this section and to pay any amounts due from the authority under any credit agreement entered into by the authority in connection with the bonds or notes, provided that all payments from the General Fund shall be subject and dependent upon appropriations made from time to time for those purposes.

b. ¹(1)¹ The State Treasurer and the authority are authorized to enter into agreements as shall be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section, including without limitation, provisions for securing the payment of bonds or notes issued by the authority pursuant to ¹subsection d. of ¹ this section and the interest thereon and providing for the investment of moneys in the fund; provided that the agreements shall be subject to approval by the presiding officers of both houses of the Legislature ¹, and provided further that when the purposes of this section have been satisfied, and upon the earlier of:

(a) the certification by the State Treasurer that the revenues of the authority are sufficient to satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of subsection c. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6) for the term of bonds or notes issued pursuant to subsection d. of this section; or

(b) the satisfaction of the requirements for the payment of bonds or notes issued pursuant to P.L., c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill);

the State Treasurer and the authority shall not, except for the refunding of bonds or notes issued pursuant to subsection d. of this section which produces debt service savings, enter into any



further agreements regarding payments by the State Treasurer into the "Sports Authority Fund" for any reason, including but not limited to, the financing or restructuring of the debt of the authority.

- (2) The agreements shall indicate the nature and scope of the projects to be financed pursuant to this section.
- (3) The agreements shall provide that with respect to the Atlantic City convention center project, the authority shall review all existing expert studies that present options as to the scope and nature of the project and the linkages between the project and the economic development of Atlantic City. Based upon its analysis of the available studies and such other expert studies as the authority may authorize, the authority shall report to the Legislature and include in the minutes of the authority its proposal for the development of the convention center. The report shall include an explanation for the selection of the project option proposed by the authority 1.
- c. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this act, if and to the extent provided in any agreement between the State Treasurer and the authority, all or part of the revenues of the authority, other than luxury tax revenues or revenues of the convention center project, in excess of the requirements of the resolutions authorizing or relating to the issuance of any of the authority's bonds or notes, except those issued pursuant to this section, shall be paid into the General Fund in repayment to the State for amounts previously paid by the State pursuant to this section with respect to the payment of principal and interest on bonds or notes issued for any of the purposes set forth in this section, except the purposes set forth in paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of subsection d. of this section, and any payments on account of any credit agreements with respect to the bonds or notes. Except as otherwise provided in this section, bonds or notes of the authority issued pursuant to this section shall be authorized, sold and issued in the manner and be entitled to the benefits, protection and provisions as apply to bonds and notes of the authority authorized to be issued pursuant to P.L.1971, c.137, (C.5:10-1 et seq.).
- d. In addition to its other powers to issue bonds and notes, the authority shall have power to issue from time to time bonds and notes payable from amounts in the Sports Authority Fund established pursuant to subsection a. of this section, as follows:
- (1) To provide sufficient funds to refund from time to time outstanding bonds or notes of the authority issued for the meadowlands complex or the monmouth racetrack project authorized pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6), whether or not the bonds or notes or interest thereon have become due, to provide for the establishment of funds or reserves to secure payment of the

bonds or notes or any other bonds or notes issued or to be issued for those purposes or interest thereon, and to provide for the payment of all other costs or expenses of the authority incident to or necessary to carry out the refunding; provided that the refunding bonds issued at any time pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed that amount estimated to be necessary so that subsequent to the refunding, the revenues from the meadowlands complex or the monmouth racetrack project, as the case may be, shall be sufficient to pay all costs payable from those revenues, as shall be estimated in a determination by the authority made in accordance with the agreement between the authority and the State Treasurer;

- (2) To finance or refinance a capital program for the meadowlands complex and the monmouth racetrack project authorized pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6), adopted by the authority to provide for major repairs, reconstruction and improvements which are legally mandated or otherwise needed to meet environmental or safety requirements, to prevent a loss of revenues, to augment revenues or to continue or enhance the operations of any of the facilities thereof 1, provided that the aggregate cost of the projects financed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$30,000,000, exclusive of interest paid during construction 1;
- (3) To provide for the financing or refinancing of the facilities for Rutgers, the State University pursuant to paragraph (8) of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6);
- (4) To provide for the financing or refinancing of the convention center project;
- (5) To finance or refinance feasibility studies for public projects consistent with the purposes of the authority; and
- (6) To provide for the financing or refinancing of any other project of the authority, but only if and to the extent expressly authorized by law enacted subsequent to the enactment of this act.
- ¹[7] To provide for the financing of the facilities at institutions of higher education pursuant to paragraph (11) of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.1971, c.137 (C.5:10-6), based upon a list of projects recommended by the Chancellor of Higher Education following a competitive application process, provided that the aggregate financing of the projects undertaken pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$5,000,000.
- e. Bonds and notes authorized pursuant to this section shall be special obligations of the authority payable as herein provided. Bonds and notes shall not be deemed to constitute a debt or liability of the State or a pledge of the faith and credit of the State but are dependent for repayment upon appropriations as provided by law from time to time. These bonds and notes and the interest thereon may also be payable from the proceeds

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thereof set aside for that purpose and income accruing therefrom.

13. (New section) In accordance with procedures which shall be established by the State Treasurer and the authority, the proposed annual operating budget of the authority and the capital budgets for all projects of the authority, and any amendments thereto, shall be submitted to the State Treasurer ¹and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee of the Legislature ¹ prior to submission to the members of the authority so as to provide the State Treasurer ¹and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee ¹ adequate time to provide comments with respect thereto.

¹The annual operating budget of the authority and the capital budgets for all projects of the authority, and any amendments thereto shall be adopted as part of, and recorded in the full text of, the minutes of the authority. ¹

- 14. (New section) Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1947, c.71 (C.40:48-8.15 et seq.), in the event that the convention hall or halls, including the site of a convention hall to be constructed, located in any municipality which levies a luxury tax pursuant to such law, shall be purchased, leased or otherwise acquired by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and for so long as the authority shall be the owner or be responsible for supervision of the operation of the convention hall or halls:
- a. Subject to and after providing for the payment of the amounts, if any, required to be paid from the luxury tax revenues of the municipality under any resolution, indenture or security agreement authorizing or securing bonds or other obligations of a county improvement authority and to be applied to the payment of the principal of and interest on those bonds or other obligations issued for the convention center project and to the maintenance of reserves therefor and the allocation of moneys for future debt service payments, all the remaining luxury tax revenues on deposit in the luxury tax fund created pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1979, c.273 (C.40:48-8.30), including any balance not required for those purposes on deposit in the luxury tax fund on the date of enactment of P.L.199, c. (now before the Legislature as this bill), shall be paid promptly during each year, commencing with the year in which P.L.199, c. (now before the Legislature as this bill) is enacted, by the State Treasurer from the luxury tax fund to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for application to the purposes of the convention center project.

- b. No further bonds or other obligations, other than refunding bonds, shall be issued and no lease shall be entered into, by any public body other than the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, the payment of which is to be made from or secured by the luxury tax revenues of the municipality; and
- c. Luxury tax revenues of the municipality which are in excess of the requirements with respect thereto of the New Jersey

Sports and Exposition Authority relating to the convention center project shall be applied to the purposes set forth in section 5 of P.L.1981, c.461 (C.40:48-8.30a).

d. If the luxury tax of the municipality, including any increase thereof adopted by the municipality after the enactment of P.L.199, c. (now before the Legislature as this bill), shall be pledged to the payment of bonds or notes of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, the municipality shall not repeal the luxury tax, nor reduce the rate of the tax, nor ¹[reduce or diminish the extent of the] eliminate from taxation any ¹ retail sales ¹that are ¹ subject to the tax ¹on the date of enactment of P.L. ,c. (C.)[now pending before the Legislature as this bill] ¹, so long as the bonds or notes shall remain outstanding.

15. (New section) The State Treasurer, in consultation with the State Auditor and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, shall enter into a contract with a person qualified to conduct an independent operations and financial audit of the authority and may prescribe any supporting documentation to be provided under the terms of the contract. The contract shall require that recommendations be made regarding a reasonable operations and maintenance budget. Copies of the audit shall be submitted to the authority, the State Treasurer and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee of the Legislature. 1

 $^{1}[15.]$ $\underline{16.}^{1}$ Sections 10 and 15 of P.L.1981, c.459 (C.52:27H-38 and 52:27H-43) are repealed.

¹[16.] <u>17.1</u> This act shall take effect immediately, except that sections 4 through 11 and section ¹[15] <u>16</u>¹ of this act shall take effect upon the acquisition by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, by purchase, lease or otherwise, of the convention center facilities in Atlantic City, including the existing convention hall and the site of the convention center to be constructed.

AUTHORITIES AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

Authorizes Sports and Exposition Authority to undertake projects relating to sports facilities at Rutgers University and the Atlantic City Convention Center and to enter into agreements with the State regarding debt financing.

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STATEMENT

3 The bill would authorize the issuance of bonds by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority pursuant to a contract between the authority and the State. The contract would be 5 6 entered into by the State Treasurer, with the approval of the legislative leaders, and would provide for the payment of the 7 8 bonds from State appropriations. The proceeds of the bonds 9 would be used to refund certain outstanding bonds of the authority in connection with a restructuring of authority debt in 10 order to take advantage of the current lower market rates and 11 12 save approximately \$170 million; to pay for major repairs and 13 improvements legally required or otherwise needed to meet 14 environmental or safety requirements or to maintain or enhance revenues of the authority; and to finance feasibility studies, 15 16 including a feasibility study for the existing convention center in 17 the City of Asbury Park.

The bill would also increase the public membership of the authority from seven to nine members.

In addition, this bill permits the Sports and Exposition Authority to issue bonds for sports and exposition facilities at Rutgers, the State University and for the convention center facilities in Atlantic City. Regarding the sports and exposition facilities, Rutgers Stadium needs to be upgraded and expanded and the running track needs to be relocated. These renovations are necessary to bring the stadium up to the standards of the Big East Conference and to provide an improved facility for track and field, soccer and lacrosse programs as well as special olympic events.

The purpose of the convention center facilities project is to enhance Atlantic City's competitiveness in the convention business, expand the tourist attractions in Atlantic City, and to attract new visitors. To accomplish this, the Sports and Exposition Authority would construct a new convention center in Atlantic City. In addition, all luxury tax revenues levied and collected by Atlantic City would be directed to the authority. The authority would then sell bonds against the revenues to acquire the site and old convention hall from the Atlantic County Improvement Authority which would use those moneys to retire its outstanding bonds. This transaction basically permits the transfer of ownership and responsibility for the convention center facilities and eliminates restrictive bond convenants.

Luxury tax revenues remaining after debt service payments would be used first for operating and maintenance costs of the convention center facilities and then be paid to the State.

The bill reorganizes the Atlantic City Convention Center 46 Authority and permits the reorganized authority to operate the convention center facilities pursuant to a contract with the

authority. A companion bill permits a marketing fee to be imposed on occupied hotel rooms in order to promote tourism, conventions, resorts and casino gaming.

AUTHORITIES AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

 Authorizes Sports and Exposition Authority to undertake projects relating to sports facilities at Rutgers University and the Atlantic City Convention Center and to enter into agreements with the State regarding debt financing.

SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3773

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 6, 1992

The Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3773, with committee amendments.

Senate Bill No. 3773, as amended, would authorize the issuance of bonds by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NISEA) pursuant to a contract between the authority and the State. The contract would be entered into by the State Treasurer, with the approval of the legislative leaders, and would provide for the payment of the bonds from State appropriations. The proceeds of the bonds would be used to refund certain outstanding bonds of the authority in connection with a restructuring of authority debt in order to take advantage of the current lower market rates and save approximately \$170 million; to pay for major repairs and improvements legally required or otherwise needed to meet environmental or safety requirements or to maintain or enhance revenues of the authority; and to finance feasibility studies. including a feasibility study for the existing convention center in the City of Asbury Park. In addition, this bill permits the Sports and Exposition Authority to issue bonds for sports facilities at Rutgers, the State University and other institutions of higher education and for the convention center facilities in Atlantic City.

The Rutgers projects include the upgrading and expansion of Rutgers Stadium and the construction of a new facility for track and field, soccer and lacrosse. The projects at other colleges would be identified by the Chancellor of Higher Education through a competitive application process. The convention center facilities project is intended to enhance Atlantic City's competitiveness in the convention business, expand the tourist attractions in Atlantic City, and to attract new visitors. Under the bill's provisions, the NJSEA is authorized to build a new convention center in Atlantic City and undertake related development activities.

The bill also provides that all luxury tax revenues levied and collected by Atlantic City would be directed to the NJSEA. The NJSEA would then sell bonds against the revenues to acquire the site and old convention hall from the Atlantic County Improvement Authority. This transaction permits the transfer of ownership and responsibility for the convention center facilities. Luxury tax revenues remaining after debt service payments would be used first for operating and maintenance costs of the convention center facilities and then be paid to the State.

The bill would also increase the public membership of the NJSEA-from-seven-to-nine-members.

The bill reorganizes the Atlantic City Convention Center Authority and permits that reorganized authority to operate the convention center facilities pursuant to a contract with the NJSEA.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

- 1. Permit the authority to undertake feasibility studies of convention centers and recreational facilities in additional municipalities.
- 2. Clarify provisions for the removal of the executive director of the Atlantic City Convention Center Authority.
- 3. Provide that the agreement between the Treasurer and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority specify the projects to be undertaken, limit the State's obligation to the financing and refunding costs of those projects and the present authority debt that is to be refinanced under the bill, and specify the process under which the scope and nature of the Atlantic City project shall be determined.
- 4. Cap the cost of new capital projects at existing authority facilities at \$30,000,000.
- 5. Require that the full text of the operating and capital budgets of the authority be included in the minutes of the authority.
- 6. Require an independent operations and fiscal audit of the authority. It is the committee's expectation that the audit will be performed by a "big eight" accounting firm pursuant to a request for proposal.
- 7. Provide up to \$5,000,000 for sports facilities at 4-year and 2-year public and private colleges.
- 8. Prohibit work on the Rutgers Stadium expansion until the appropriation of funds for and the beginning of construction on Route 18 in Piscataway Township.

FISCAL IMPACT

According to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority the annual debt service costs will be \$17,600,000 for the Sports Complex refinancing and capital improvements, \$12,800,000 for the Atlantic City Convention Center, and \$2,100,000 for the Rutgers project. This annual cost of \$32,500,000 would be payable from the General Fund. The annual net cost would be reduced by any moneys paid by the authority into the General Fund, pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the State and the authority.

According to the authority, the construction cost for the Atlantic City Convention Center will be approximately \$195,000,000 and the cost of the projects at Rutgers will be approximately \$25,000,000.



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001 Contact:

JON SHURE JO ASTRID GLADING 609-292-8956 **TRENTON, N.J. 08625**

Release:

MONDAY

JAN. 13, 1992

Governor Jim Florio today signed legislation that will create thousands of new jobs and combat the national recession by financing the construction of the Atlantic City Convention Center and the expansion of the Rutgers University Stadium.

"This bill is about jobs and it's about investing in our state's future," Governor Florio said. "This bill is about putting people back to work—and fighting this national recession while Washington continues to sit on the sidelines."

Governor Florio signed the bill in Atlantic City at a previously scheduled appearance before the AFL-CIO's legislative conference.

The refinancing will provide approximately \$27 million for upgrading the Rutgers Stadium, expanding its seating capacity from 23,000 to 45,000, and building a second, smaller facility for other sports events.

"This will allow us to bring the football stadium up to the standards of the Big East Conference as Rutgers enters the conference and begins competing against some of the biggest teams in the nation," Governor Florio said. "At the same time, it lets Rutgers increase its football revenues, so more University funds are free for academic purposes."

The refinancing also will provide approximately \$163 million in bond funds for the construction of a new convention center in Atlantic City.

"We are fulfilling the promise of Atlantic City by making sure it stays competitive in the business of attracting tourism and industry to New Jersey," Governor Florio said. "This legislation is also a fine example of the kind of bipartisan teamwork needed to keep New Jersey moving forward in this national recession."

In addition, the law provides up to \$30 million for repairs and improvements to the Meadowlands sports complex and Monmouth Park.

The law allows the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to refinance and restructure its debt in order to finance the construction of the Atlantic City Convention Center and the expansion of the Rutgers Stadium.

Under the law, approximately \$193 million in appropriation bonds will be issued, payable from state appropriations under an agreement between the state treasurer and the Sports Authority. The refinancing of the Sports Authority's debt is expected to save \$170 million over the life of the bonds.

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