32:20B-1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2011 **CHAPTER:** 177

NJSA: 32:20B-1 (Creates bi-state commission to coordinate management and flood prevention of waterways

flowing between Bergen County, NJ and Rockland County, NY)

BILL NO: S59 (Substituted for A2440)

SPONSOR(S) Cardinale and others

DATE INTRODUCED: January 12, 2010

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Environment and Solid Waste

SENATE: Environment and Energy

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: January 9, 2012

SENATE: January 9, 2012

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 17, 2012

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First reprint enacted)

S59

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 6 of introduced bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

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

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A2440

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 6 of introduced bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes .

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	No
FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED: To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or mailto:refde	sk@njstatelib.org
REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes
"Chrisite Oks Creation of Anti-Flooding Panel, The Record, 1-20-12	
I AM//VD	

LAW/KR

Title 32. Subtitle 8. Chapter 20B. (New) Rockland-Bergen Watershed §§1-9 -C.32:20B-1 to 32:20B-9

P.L.2011, CHAPTER 177, approved January 17, 2012 Senate, No. 59 (First Reprint)

AN ACT creating the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission 1 2 and supplementing Title 32 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Rockland-Bergen Watershed Flood Prevention and Protection Act."

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watersheds.

10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that the States of New Jersey and New York and their respective citizens share a common 11 concern to protect their personal safety and property through the 12 13 identification and remediation of potential flood hazards along the 14 Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle 15 Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries and watersheds; that 16 because the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, 17 Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries cross the interstate 18 border region, the identification and remediation of potential flood 19 hazards require a bistate comprehensive approach; that a bistate 20 comprehensive flood prevention approach will also help ensure the 21 preservation and maintenance of the environmental benefits of the 22 Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries; that a bistate 23 approach will encourage open space preservation and recreational 24 25 opportunities along the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries; and that 26 27 there has been a long history of cooperation among state and local 28 governmental entities and various private organizations and 29 individuals in the vicinity of the Hackensack River, Sparkill 30 Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their 31 tributaries to ensure the preservation of those water bodies 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 September 23, 2010.

The Legislature therefore determines that there is a need to endorse and formalize that bistate cooperative effort to identify and remediate potential flood hazards and to protect the natural, scenic and recreational opportunities of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River and their tributaries; and that the creation of a bistate commission is an appropriate means to accomplish these very important goals.

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3. As used in this act:

"Bistate region" means tributaries and watersheds of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River within the County of Bergen in New Jersey and the County of Rockland in New York.

"Resident voter" means an individual registered to vote and who actually votes in a district within the County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York.

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4. a. There is created the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission, which shall comprise 18 members.

20 The commission shall include 12 voting members, as follows: 21 the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental 22 Protection, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; the 23 Commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental 24 Conservation, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; and 25 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the 26 protection, preservation, maintenance, management, 27 enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational resources associated therewith, ¹or with a background or experience 28 in building or engineering, who are resident voters of the County 29 of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York, 30 31 of whom one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of 32 New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of New York, one shall be appointed by the President of the Senate of 33 34 the State of New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Minority 35 Leader of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, one shall be 36 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly of the State of 37 New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the 38 General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, one shall be 39 appointed by the ¹ [Majority Leader] <u>President</u> ¹ of the Senate of the 40 State of New York, one shall be appointed by the Minority Leader 41 of the Senate of the State of New York, one shall be appointed by 42 the Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New York and one shall 43 be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly of the State of 44 New York.

Additionally, the commission shall include six non-voting members, as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who shall

- serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York State 1
- 2 Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who shall
- 3 serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in
- 4 New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; the
- 5 County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a
- designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; a representative of 6
- 7 United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army
- 8 Corps of Engineers.

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- 9 b. Vacancies in the appointed positions on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were 10 11 made.
 - c. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but the commission may, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it, reimburse members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties.
 - d. Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the relevant appointing authority.
 - The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the appointment of its members, and shall select two co-chairpersons from its members, one from each state, and a
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- secretary who need not be a member. The commission shall meet regularly as it may determine. Meetings of the commission shall be at such times and places as the

co-chairpersons of the commission deem appropriate, but to the

- 27 maximum extent practicable and feasible, shall be rotated between
- 28 the two states on an alternating basis. Meetings held in New Jersey 29 shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of the "Senator
- 30 Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231
- 31 (C.10:4-6 et seq.). Meetings held in New York shall be subject to
- 32 the provisions and requirements of that state's open meetings law, 33 article 7 of the public officers law.
- 34 c. A majority of the voting membership of the commission 35 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of commission 36 business. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted
- 37 by the commission at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of
- seven voting members of the commission. 38
- 39 d. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance, and 40 avail itself of the services of, such employees of the two states, or
- 41 any political subdivisions, instrumentalities, entities, agencies, or 42 authorities thereof, as it may require and as may be made available
- 43 to it for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this act. If
- 44 requested by the commission, the New Jersey Department of
- 45 Environmental Protection and the New York Department of
- 46 Environmental Conservation shall provide primary staff support.

e. The commission may, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for those purposes, employ such professional, technical, and clerical staff and incur such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary in order to perform its duties.

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- 6. The duties of the commission shall be to:
- a. identify existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- b. recommend, propose and coordinate a comprehensive plan to remediate existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- c. assess present and projected development, land use, and land management practices and patterns, and identify actual and potential environmental threats and problems, in the bistate region, and determine the effects of those practices and patterns, threats, and problems upon the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the bistate region;
- d. '[develop] offer' recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region ', provided, however, that the commission shall not adopt rules or regulations';
- e. coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region, by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- f. coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the municipalities within the bistate region;
- g. recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region;
- h. advocate, and where appropriate, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency for, federal, state, or private funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the commission; and
- i. take such other action as may be appropriate or necessary to further the purpose of this act.

7. The commission shall, within 18 months after the date it organizes, and annually thereafter, prepare a progress report on its activities, and submit it, together with any recommendations for

legislation, administrative action, or action by local governments, to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of New Jersey and New York. For New Jersey, each such report shall be submitted to the Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

8. The State Comptroller of New Jersey and the comptroller of the state of New York are hereby authorized and empowered from time to time to examine the accounts and books of the commission, including its receipts, disbursements, and such other items referring to its financial standing as the comptroller may deem proper and to report the results of such examination to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of New Jersey and New York. Such report shall be submitted to the New Jersey Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

9. This act shall take effect upon enactment of substantially similar legislation by the State of New York, unless the State of New York has enacted such legislation prior to the date of enactment of this act, in which case this act shall take effect immediately.

Creates bistate commission to coordinate management and flood prevention of waterways flowing between Bergen County, NJ and Rockland County, NY.

SENATE, No. 59

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator GERALD CARDINALE

District 39 (Bergen)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators O'Toole and Gordon

SYNOPSIS

Creates bistate commission to coordinate management and flood prevention of waterways flowing between Bergen County, NJ and Rockland County, NY.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



S59 CARDINALE, WEINBERG

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1 AN ACT creating the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission 2 and supplementing Title 32 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Rockland-Bergen Watershed Flood Prevention and Protection Act."

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The Legislature finds and declares that the States of New 10 Jersey and New York and their respective citizens share a common 11 12 concern to protect their personal safety and property through the 13 identification and remediation of potential flood hazards along the 14 Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle 15 Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries and watersheds; that 16 because the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, 17 Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries cross the interstate 18 border region, the identification and remediation of potential flood 19 hazards require a bistate comprehensive approach; that a bistate 20 comprehensive flood prevention approach will also help ensure the 21 preservation and maintenance of the environmental benefits of the 22 Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle 23 Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries; that a bistate 24 approach will encourage open space preservation and recreational 25 opportunities along the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, 26 Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries; and that 27 there has been a long history of cooperation among state and local 28 governmental entities and various private organizations and 29 individuals in the vicinity of the Hackensack River, Sparkill 30 Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their

32 watersheds. 33 The Legislature therefore determines that there is a need to 34 endorse and formalize that bistate cooperative effort to identify and 35 remediate potential flood hazards and to protect the natural, scenic 36 and recreational opportunities of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River and their 37 tributaries; and that the creation of a bistate commission is an 38 39 appropriate means to accomplish these very important goals.

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"Bistate region" means tributaries and watersheds of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River within the County of Bergen in New Jersey and the County of Rockland in New York.

"Resident voter" means an individual registered to vote and who actually votes in a district within the County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York.

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4. a. There is created the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission, which shall comprise 18 members.

7 The commission shall include 12 voting members, as follows: 8 the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental 9 Protection, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental 10 Conservation, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; and 11 12 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the protection, preservation, 13 maintenance, management, 14 enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational 15 resources associated therewith, who are resident voters of the 16 County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New 17 York, of whom one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State 18 of New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State 19 of New York, one shall be appointed by the President of the Senate 20 of the State of New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Minority 21 Leader of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, one shall be 22 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly of the State of 23 New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the 24 General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, one shall be 25 appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate of the State of New 26 York, one shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate 27 of the State of New York, one shall be appointed by the Speaker of 28 the Assembly of the State of New York and one shall be appointed 29

by the Minority Leader of the Assembly of the State of New York. 30 Additionally, the commission shall include six non-voting 31 members, as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey 32 Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who shall 33 serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York State 34 Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who shall 35 serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in 36 New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; the 37 County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a 38 designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; a representative of 39 United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army 40 Corps of Engineers.

b. Vacancies in the appointed positions on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

44 c. Members of the commission shall serve without 45 compensation, but the commission may, within the limits of funds 46 appropriated or otherwise made available to it, reimburse members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

d. Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the relevant appointing authority.

5. a. The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the appointment of its members, and shall select two co-chairpersons from its members, one from each state, and a secretary who need not be a member.

The commission shall meet regularly as it may determine. Meetings of the commission shall be at such times and places as the co-chairpersons of the commission deem appropriate, but to the maximum extent practicable and feasible, shall be rotated between the two states on an alternating basis. Meetings held in New Jersey shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.). Meetings held in New York shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of that state's open meetings law, article 7 of the public officers law.

- c. A majority of the voting membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of commission business. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of seven voting members of the commission.
- d. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance, and avail itself of the services of, such employees of the two states, or any political subdivisions, instrumentalities, entities, agencies, or authorities thereof, as it may require and as may be made available to it for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this act. If requested by the commission, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation shall provide primary staff support.
- e. The commission may, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for those purposes, employ such professional, technical, and clerical staff and incur such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary in order to perform its duties.

- 6. The duties of the commission shall be to:
- a. identify existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- b. recommend, propose and coordinate a comprehensive plan to remediate existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- c. assess present and projected development, land use, and land management practices and patterns, and identify actual and potential environmental threats and problems, in the bistate region, and determine the effects of those practices and patterns, threats,

and problems upon the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the bistate region;

- d. develop recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- e. coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region, by the municipalities within the bistate region;
 - f. coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the municipalities within the bistate region;
 - g. recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region;
 - h. advocate, and where appropriate, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency for, federal, state, or private funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the commission; and
 - i. take such other action as may be appropriate or necessary to further the purpose of this act.
 - 7. The commission shall, within 18 months after the date it organizes, and annually thereafter, prepare a progress report on its activities, and submit it, together with any recommendations for legislation, administrative action, or action by local governments, to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of New Jersey and New York. For New Jersey, each such report shall be submitted to the Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

36 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-1

8. The State Comptroller of New Jersey and the comptroller of the state of New York are hereby authorized and empowered from time to time to examine the accounts and books of the commission, including its receipts, disbursements, and such other items referring to its financial standing as the comptroller may deem proper and to report the results of such examination to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of New Jersey and New York. Such report shall be submitted to the New Jersey Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

9. This act shall take effect upon enactment of substantially similar legislation by the State of New York, unless the State of New York has enacted such legislation prior to the date of enactment of this act, in which case this act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

This bill creates an 18-member bistate commission, to be known as the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission, the purpose of which would be to provide a means to effectively facilitate the cooperation of the governments of the States of New Jersey and New York to help ensure that the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, their tributaries and watersheds are protected from despoliation due to environmental and other threats from both sides of the border, so that the pristine beauty of the area will be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment and recreation of present and future generations, and to ensure the safety of the surrounding communities from flood hazards.

The commission would include 12 voting members as follows: the Commissioner of the NJDEP, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the NYDEC, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; and 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, or enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational resources associated therewith, who are resident voters of the County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York, of whom one would be appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one would be appointed by the Governor of New York, one would be appointed by the President of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly and one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Assembly.

Additionally, the commission would include six non-voting members, as follows: the Commissioner of the NJDOT, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the NYDOT, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in New Jersey, or a

- designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive
- 2 of the County of Rockland in New York, or a designee thereof, who
- 3 would serve ex officio; a representative of United Water, Inc.; and a
- 4 representative of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The duties of the commission would be to:

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- (1) identify existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- (2) recommend, propose and coordinate a comprehensive plan to remediate existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- (3) assess present and projected development, land use, and land management practices and patterns, and identify actual and potential environmental threats and problems, in the bistate region, and determine the effects of those practices and patterns, threats, and problems upon the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the bistate region;
- (4) develop recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (5) coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region, by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (6) coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (7) recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region; and
- 33 (8) advocate, and when directed, act as a coordinating, 34 distributing, or recipient agency for, federal, state, or private 35 funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection 36 projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for 37 the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the 38 commission.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 59

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 59 with committee amendments.

This bill, as amended by the committee, creates an 18-member bistate commission, with 12 voting and six non-voting members, to be known as the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission. The purpose of the commission would be to provide a means to effectively facilitate the cooperation of the governments of the States of New Jersey and New York to help ensure that the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries and watersheds are protected from despoliation due to environmental and other threats from both sides of the border, so that the pristine beauty of the area will be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment and recreation of present and future generations, and to ensure the safety of the surrounding communities from flood hazards.

The commission would include 12 voting members as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC), or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; and 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, or enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational resources associated therewith, or with a background or experience in building or engineering, who are resident voters of the County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York, of whom one would be appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one would be appointed by the Governor of New York, one would be appointed by the President of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the President of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Senate, one

would be appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly and one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Assembly.

In addition, the commission would include six non-voting members, as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; a representative of United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).

The duties of the commission would be to:

- (1) identify existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- (2) recommend, propose and coordinate a comprehensive plan to remediate existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- (3) assess present and projected development, land use, and land management practices and patterns, and identify actual and potential environmental threats and problems, in the bistate region, and determine the effects of those practices and patterns, threats, and problems upon the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the bistate region;
- (4) offer recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (5) coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region, by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (6) coordinate with the NJDEP and the NYDEC, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the USACOE and the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (7) recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region; and
- (8) advocate, and when directed, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency, for federal, state, or private funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the commission.

Substantially similar legislation was introduced in the New York State Legislature in April 2009.

The committee amendments would allow the 10 members of the public to have a background or experience in building or engineering, as an alternative to other backgrounds and experiences specified in the bill, and make a technical correction.

In addition, the committee amendments specifically provide that the commission would have no authority to adopt rules or regulations but would be able to offer, rather than develop, recommended regulations, procedures policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 59**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2011

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 59 (1R).

This bill creates an 18-member bistate commission, with 12 voting and six non-voting members, to be known as the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission. The purpose of the commission would be to provide a means to effectively facilitate the cooperation of the governments of the States of New Jersey and New York to help ensure that the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries and watersheds are protected from despoliation due to environmental and other threats from both sides of the border, so that the pristine beauty of the area will be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment and recreation of present and future generations, and to ensure the safety of the surrounding communities from flood hazards.

The commission would include 12 voting members as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC), or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; and 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, or enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational resources associated therewith, or with a background or experience in building or engineering, who are resident voters of the County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York, of whom one would be appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one would be appointed by the Governor of New York, one would be appointed by the President of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the President of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly and one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Assembly.

In addition, the commission would include six non-voting members, as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; a representative of United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).

The duties of the commission would be to:

- (1) identify existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- (2) recommend, propose and coordinate a comprehensive plan to remediate existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- (3) assess present and projected development, land use, and land management practices and patterns, and identify actual and potential environmental threats and problems, in the bistate region, and determine the effects of those practices and patterns, threats, and problems upon the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the bistate region;
- (4) offer recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (5) coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region, by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (6) coordinate with the NJDEP and the NYDEC, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the USACOE and the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (7) recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region; and
- (8) advocate, and when directed, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency, for federal, state, or private funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the commission.

Substantially similar legislation was introduced in the New York State Legislature in April 2009.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2440 as amended and reported by the committee.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2440

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2010

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CHARLOTTE VANDERVALK
District 39 (Bergen)
Assemblyman ROBERT SCHROEDER
District 39 (Bergen)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER

SYNOPSIS

Creates bistate commission to coordinate management and flood prevention of waterways flowing between Bergen County, NJ and Rockland County, NY.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

District 38 (Bergen)



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/1/2010)

A2440 VANDERVALK, SCHROEDER

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1 AN ACT creating the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission 2 and supplementing Title 32 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Rockland-Bergen Watershed Flood Prevention and Protection Act."

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watersheds.

2. The Legislature finds and declares that the States of New Jersey and New York and their respective citizens share a common concern to protect their personal safety and property through the identification and remediation of potential flood hazards along the Sparkill Brook/Creek, Hackensack River, Saddle Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries and watersheds; that because the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries cross the interstate border region, the identification and remediation of potential flood hazards require a bistate comprehensive approach; that a bistate comprehensive flood prevention approach will also help ensure the preservation and maintenance of the environmental benefits of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries; that a bistate approach will encourage open space preservation and recreational opportunities along the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries; and that there has been a long history of cooperation among state and local governmental entities and various private organizations and individuals in the vicinity of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their

38 39 The Legislature therefore determines that there is a need to endorse and formalize that bistate cooperative effort to identify and remediate potential flood hazards and to protect the natural, scenic and recreational opportunities of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River and their tributaries; and that the creation of a bistate commission is an appropriate means to accomplish these very important goals.

tributaries to ensure the preservation of those water bodies and

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3. As used in this act:

"Bistate region" means tributaries and watersheds of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River within the County of Bergen in New Jersey and the County of Rockland in New York.

"Resident voter" means an individual registered to vote and who
actually votes in a district within the County of Bergen in New
Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York.

4. a. There is created the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River
 Commission, which shall comprise 18 members.

3 The commission shall include 12 voting members, as follows: 4 the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental 5 Protection, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; the 6 Commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental 7 Conservation, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; and 8 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the 9 protection, preservation, maintenance, management, 10 enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational 11 resources associated therewith, who are resident voters of the 12 County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New 13 York, of whom one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State 14 of New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State 15 of New York, one shall be appointed by the President of the Senate 16 of the State of New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Minority 17 Leader of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, one shall be 18 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly of the State of 19 New Jersey, one shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the 20 General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, one shall be 21 appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate of the State of New York, one shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate 22 23 of the State of New York, one shall be appointed by the Speaker of 24 the Assembly of the State of New York and one shall be appointed 25 by the Minority Leader of the Assembly of the State of New York.

26 Additionally, the commission shall include six non-voting 27 members, as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who shall 28 29 serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York State 30 Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who shall 31 serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in 32 New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; the 33 County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a 34 designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio; a representative of 35 United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army 36 Corps of Engineers.

- b. Vacancies in the appointed positions on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.
- 40 c. Members of the commission shall serve 41 compensation, but the commission may, within the limits of funds 42 appropriated or otherwise made available to it, reimburse members 43 for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their 44 official duties.
- d. Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the relevant appointing authority.

- 5. a. The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the appointment of its members, and shall select two co-chairpersons from its members, one from each state, and a secretary who need not be a member.
- b. The commission shall meet regularly as it may determine. Meetings of the commission shall be at such times and places as the co-chairpersons of the commission deem appropriate, but to the maximum extent practicable and feasible, shall be rotated between the two states on an alternating basis. Meetings held in New Jersey shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.). Meetings held in New York shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of that state's open meetings law, article 7 of the public officers law.
 - c. A majority of the voting membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of commission business. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of seven voting members of the commission.
 - d. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance, and avail itself of the services of, such employees of the two states, or any political subdivisions, instrumentalities, entities, agencies, or authorities thereof, as it may require and as may be made available to it for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this act. If requested by the commission, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation shall provide primary staff support.
 - e. The commission may, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for those purposes, employ such professional, technical, and clerical staff and incur such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary in order to perform its duties.

- 6. The duties of the commission shall be to:
- a. identify existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- b. recommend, propose and coordinate a comprehensive plan to remediate existing and projected flood hazards in the bistate region;
- c. assess present and projected development, land use, and land management practices and patterns, and identify actual and potential environmental threats and problems, in the bistate region, and determine the effects of those practices and patterns, threats, and problems upon the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the bistate region;
- d. develop recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would

A2440 VANDERVALK, SCHROEDER

- be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- e. coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and
 protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region,
 by the municipalities within the bistate region;
 - f. coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the municipalities within the bistate region;
 - g. recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region;
 - h. advocate, and where appropriate, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency for, federal, state, or private funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the commission; and
 - i. take such other action as may be appropriate or necessary to further the purpose of this act.

7. The commission shall, within 18 months after the date it organizes, and annually thereafter, prepare a progress report on its activities, and submit it, together with any recommendations for legislation, administrative action, or action by local governments, to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of New Jersey and New York. For New Jersey, each such report shall be submitted to the Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

31328. The State Comptroller of New Jersey and

8. The State Comptroller of New Jersey and the comptroller of the state of New York are hereby authorized and empowered from time to time to examine the accounts and books of the commission, including its receipts, disbursements, and such other items referring to its financial standing as the comptroller may deem proper and to report the results of such examination to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of New Jersey and New York. Such report shall be submitted to the New Jersey Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

9. This act shall take effect upon enactment of substantially similar legislation by the State of New York, unless the State of New York has enacted such legislation prior to the date of enactment of this act, in which case this act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill creates an 18-member bistate commission, to be known as the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission, the purpose of which would be to provide a means to effectively facilitate the cooperation of the governments of the States of New Jersey and New York to help ensure that the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, their tributaries and watersheds are protected from despoliation due to environmental and other threats from both sides of the border, so that the pristine beauty of the area will be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment and recreation of present and future generations, and to ensure the safety of the surrounding communities from flood hazards.

The commission would include 12 voting members as follows: the Commissioner of the NJDEP, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the NYDEC, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; and 10 members of the public with a background or experience in the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, or enhancement of rivers or the natural, scenic, or recreational resources associated therewith, who are resident voters of the County of Bergen in New Jersey or the County of Rockland in New York, of whom one would be appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one would be appointed by the Governor of New York, one would be appointed by the President of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, one would be appointed by the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Senate, one would be appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly and one would be appointed by the Minority Leader of the New York State Assembly.

Additionally, the commission would include six non-voting members, as follows: the Commissioner of the NJDOT, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the NYDOT, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; a representative of United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The duties of the commission would be to:

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ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2440

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2011

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2440.

This bill, as amended by the committee, creates an 18-member bistate commission, with 12 voting and six non-voting members, to be known as the Rockland-Bergen Bistate River Commission. The purpose of the commission would be to provide a means to effectively facilitate the cooperation of the governments of the States of New Jersey and New York to help ensure that the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Hackensack River, Sparkill Brook/Creek, Saddle River, Ramapo/Mahwah River, and their tributaries and watersheds are protected from despoliation due to environmental and other threats from both sides of the border, so that the pristine beauty of the area will be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment and recreation of present and future generations, and to ensure the safety of the surrounding communities from flood hazards.

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In addition, the commission would include six non-voting members, as follows: the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the Commissioner of the New York Department of Transportation, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Bergen in New Jersey, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; the County Executive of the County of Rockland in New York, or a designee thereof, who would serve ex officio; a representative of United Water, Inc.; and a representative of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).

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- (4) offer recommended regulations, procedures, policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (5) coordinate environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection efforts undertaken, for the benefit of the bistate region, by the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (6) coordinate with the NJDEP and the NYDEC, including, but not limited to, their watershed management programs, the USACOE and the municipalities within the bistate region;
- (7) recommend appropriate state legislation and administrative action pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region; and
- (8) advocate, and when directed, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency, for federal, state, or private funding of environmental cleanup, maintenance, and protection projects, flood prevention projects and flood hazard remediation for the bistate region, which projects may include the work of the commission.

Substantially similar legislation was introduced in the New York State Legislature in April 2009.

As amended by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 59 (1R) as also reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

- 1) allow the 10 members of the public to have a background or experience in building or engineering, as an alternative to other backgrounds and experiences specified in the bill;
- 2) specifically provide that the commission would have no authority to adopt rules or regulations but would be able to offer, rather than develop, recommended regulations, procedures policies, planning strategies, and model ordinances and resolutions pertaining to the protection, preservation, maintenance, management, and enhancement of the bistate region, which would be implemented as appropriate on a voluntary basis by the municipalities within the bistate region; and
 - 3) make a technical correction.