

**23:2-13 to 23:2-15**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

**LAWS OF:** 2012                      **CHAPTER:** 46

**NJSA:** 23:2-13 to 23:2-15 (Establishes Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in DEP and appropriates \$200,000 therefor from Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund)

**BILL NO:** A638                      (Substituted for S178)

**SPONSOR(S)** Rumpf and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** January 10, 2012

**COMMITTEE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Appropriations

**SENATE:** Budget and Appropriations

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** May 24, 2012

**SENATE:** June 21, 2012

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** September 18, 2012

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (First reprint enacted)

**A638**

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 3 of original bill)                      Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Yes                      Agriculture Appropriations

**SENATE:** Yes

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** Yes

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**S178**

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 3 of original bill)                      Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** No

**SENATE:** Yes                      Environment Budget

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE:** No

(continued)

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

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

**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:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

LAW/RWH

P.L.2012, CHAPTER 46, *approved September 18, 2012*  
Assembly, No. 638 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing a Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program,  
2 supplementing Title 23 of the Revised Statutes and making an  
3 appropriation.  
4

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

8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental  
9 Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, a Hooked on Fishing-Not  
10 on Drugs Program, which shall be based on a national program  
11 developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation that encourages  
12 school-aged children to avoid drug usage by providing alternative  
13 activities that involve learning to fish, appreciating aquatic and  
14 environmental resources, and developing positive life skills. The  
15 division shall assign <sup>1</sup>**[at least one full-time]**<sup>1</sup> staff <sup>1</sup>**[person]**<sup>1</sup> to  
16 develop strategies for assisting school districts or other interested  
17 public service organizations in implementing this program  
18 throughout the State. Statewide program implementation shall be  
19 modeled after the pilot program implemented in Ocean County in  
20 calendar year 2000, which <sup>1</sup>**[shall]** may<sup>1</sup> include, but not be limited  
21 to, the distribution of materials to promote and operate the program  
22 throughout the State. To the maximum extent possible, the division  
23 shall implement and operate the program in every county in the  
24 State.

25 b. The division <sup>1</sup>**[shall]** may<sup>1</sup> work with educational, public  
26 safety and environmental groups in order to promote volunteerism  
27 among these groups for the purpose of acting as program  
28 instructors, mentors or advisors. The division <sup>1</sup>**[shall]** may<sup>1</sup> also  
29 work with public service organizations, sportsman groups and local  
30 merchants to encourage the donation of technical, material and  
31 financial assistance to the program.  
32

33 2. The division shall collect and maintain data on the Hooked  
34 on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program and provide an annual report to  
35 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
36 19.1), including information on the number of school districts or  
37 municipalities that have implemented the program and the number

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted March 15, 2012.

1 of pupils that are participating in the program. The report shall also  
2 include information on the effectiveness of the program in terms of  
3 drug usage avoidance or incidents among participating students.

4

5 3. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,  
6 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
7 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be  
8 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

9

10 4. There is appropriated the sum of \$200,000 from the Drug  
11 Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, established pursuant to  
12 N.J.S.2C:35-15, to the Department of Environmental Protection to  
13 fund the cost of implementing the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs  
14 Program established pursuant to this act. The Legislature, to the  
15 extent possible, shall ensure that sufficient appropriations from the  
16 Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund <sup>1</sup>[are included  
17 every year in the annual appropriations act] or any other  
18 appropriate source are provided annually<sup>1</sup> to maintain the operation  
19 of the program.

20

21 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24

25

26 Establishes Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in DEP  
27 and appropriates \$200,000 therefor from Drug Enforcement and  
28 Demand Reduction Fund.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 638

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BRIAN E. RUMPF**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman DIANNE C. GOVE**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

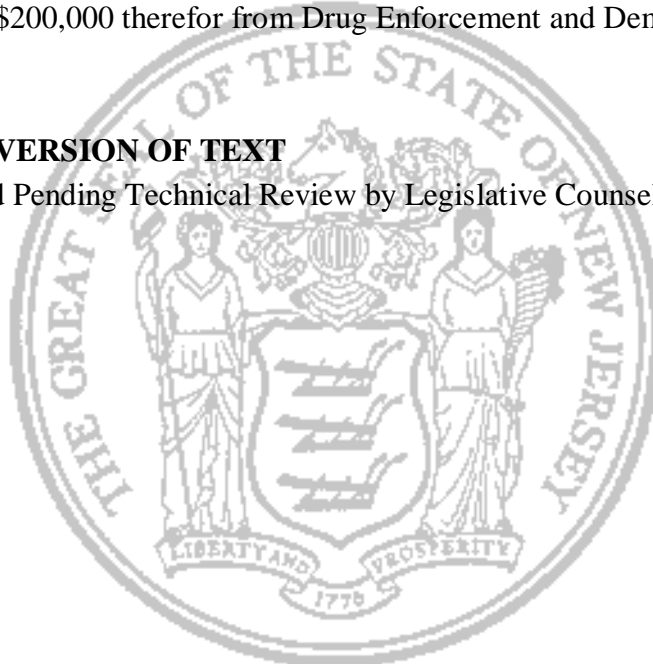
**Assemblymen Wolfe, Diegnan, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Moriarty, Chiusano, Rumana, Peterson and Burzichelli**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in DEP and appropriates \$200,000 therefor from Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT establishing a Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program,  
2 supplementing Title 23 of the Revised Statutes and making an  
3 appropriation.  
4

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

8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental  
9 Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, a Hooked on Fishing-Not  
10 on Drugs Program, which shall be based on a national program  
11 developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation that encourages  
12 school-aged children to avoid drug usage by providing alternative  
13 activities that involve learning to fish, appreciating aquatic and  
14 environmental resources, and developing positive life skills. The  
15 division shall assign at least one full-time staff person to develop  
16 strategies for assisting school districts or other interested public  
17 service organizations in implementing this program throughout the  
18 State. Statewide program implementation shall be modeled after  
19 the pilot program implemented in Ocean County in calendar year  
20 2000, which shall include, but not be limited to, the distribution of  
21 materials to promote and operate the program throughout the State.  
22 To the maximum extent possible, the division shall implement and  
23 operate the program in every county in the State.

24 b. The division shall work with educational, public safety and  
25 environmental groups in order to promote volunteerism among  
26 these groups for the purpose of acting as program instructors,  
27 mentors or advisors. The division shall also work with public  
28 service organizations, sportsman groups and local merchants to  
29 encourage the donation of technical, material and financial  
30 assistance to the program.  
31

32 2. The division shall collect and maintain data on the Hooked  
33 on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program and provide an annual report to  
34 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
35 19.1), including information on the number of school districts or  
36 municipalities that have implemented the program and the number  
37 of pupils that are participating in the program. The report shall also  
38 include information on the effectiveness of the program in terms of  
39 drug usage avoidance or incidents among participating students.  
40

41 3. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,  
42 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be  
44 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.  
45

46 4. There is appropriated the sum of \$200,000 from the Drug  
47 Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, established pursuant to  
48 N.J.S.2C:35-15, to the Department of Environmental Protection to

1 fund the cost of implementing the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs  
2 Program established pursuant to this act. The Legislature, to the  
3 extent possible, shall ensure that sufficient appropriations from the  
4 Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund are included every  
5 year in the annual appropriations act to maintain the operation of  
6 the program.

7

8 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

#### STATEMENT

12

13 This bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs  
14 Program (HOFNOD) in the Department of Environmental  
15 Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

16 The bill establishes the HOFNOD program on a Statewide basis  
17 by enabling the Division of Fish and Wildlife to implement and  
18 model the program after the pilot HOFNOD program implemented  
19 in Ocean County in 2000. To the maximum extent possible, the  
20 division will implement and operate the program in every county in  
21 the State.

22 The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and  
23 Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental  
24 Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The  
25 appropriation will support the initial salary costs of a full-time  
26 program director, who will oversee and coordinate a predominantly  
27 volunteer staff. This funding may also be used to purchase fishing  
28 kits, an essential part of the program, and other program materials.

29 The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug  
30 Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account  
31 established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug  
32 offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol  
33 abuse abatement programs. The bill encourages the Legislature to  
34 appropriate sufficient funding from this source on an annual basis in  
35 the State Budget to support this program.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 638**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 2, 2012

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 638.

The bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program (HOFNOD) in the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The bill establishes the HOFNOD program on a Statewide basis by enabling the Division of Fish and Wildlife to implement and model the program after the pilot HOFNOD program implemented in Ocean County in 2000. To the maximum extent possible, the division will implement and operate the program in every county in the State.

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The appropriation will support the initial salary costs of a full-time program director, who will oversee and coordinate a predominantly volunteer staff. This funding may also be used to purchase fishing kits, an essential part of the program, and other program materials.

The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs. The bill encourages the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding from this source on an annual basis in the State Budget to support this program.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.



# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 638

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 12, 2012

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably on Assembly Bill No. 638.

This bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The bill requires the Division of Fish and Wildlife to assign at least one full-time staff person to develop strategies for assisting school districts or other interested public service organizations in implementing the program.

The bill provides for the establishment of the program on a Statewide basis by requiring the division to implement and model the program after a similar pilot program implemented in Ocean County in 2000. The bill provides that to the maximum extent possible, the division will implement and operate the program in every county in the State.

The bill directs the division to work with educational, public safety, and environmental groups to promote volunteerism among these groups for the purpose of acting as program instructors, mentors, or advisors. The bill directs the division to work with public service organizations, sportsman groups, and local merchants to encourage the donation of technical, material, and financial assistance to the program.

The bill requires the division to collect and maintain data on the program. The bill requires the division to provide an annual report on the program to the Legislature, and stipulates certain information required to be included in the report.

The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the bill.

The bill appropriates \$200,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs.

The bill encourages the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund on

an annual basis through the annual appropriations act to maintain the operation of the program in future years.

The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.

The bill provides that the purpose of the program is to encourage school-aged children to avoid drug-usage by providing alternative activities that involve learning to fish, appreciating aquatic and environmental resources, and developing positive life skills.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program.

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 638**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Assemblyman RUMPF)

ADOPTED: MARCH 15, 2012

These amendments allow the Department of Environmental Protection to choose how much staff to provide to the program, and would make the distribution of materials and collaboration with outside groups concerning the program permissive. The amendments also provide more flexibility for the funding source for the program.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 638**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 7, 2012

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 638 (1R).

This bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The bill establishes the program on a Statewide basis by requiring the division to implement and model the program after a similar pilot program implemented in Ocean County in 2000. To the maximum extent possible, the division will implement and operate the program in every county in the State.

The bill requires the division to collect and maintain data on the program. The bill requires the division to provide an annual report on the program to the Legislature, and stipulates certain information required to be included in the report.

The bill appropriates \$200,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs. The bill encourages the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding annually from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund or any other appropriate source to maintain the operation of the program in future years.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 178, as also considered by the committee.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program.

# SENATE, No. 178

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS**  
**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**  
**Senator JENNIFER BECK**  
**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Buono, Madden, Oroho, Greenstein, Addiego, Allen and Norcross**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in DEP and appropriates \$200,000 therefor from Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT establishing a Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program,  
2 supplementing Title 23 of the Revised Statutes and making an  
3 appropriation.  
4

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

8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental  
9 Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, a Hooked on Fishing-Not  
10 on Drugs Program, which shall be based on a national program  
11 developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation that encourages  
12 school-aged children to avoid drug usage by providing alternative  
13 activities that involve learning to fish, appreciating aquatic and  
14 environmental resources, and developing positive life skills. The  
15 division shall assign at least one full-time staff person to develop  
16 strategies for assisting school districts or other interested public  
17 service organizations in implementing this program throughout the  
18 State. Statewide program implementation shall be modeled after  
19 the pilot program implemented in Ocean County in calendar year  
20 2000, which shall include, but not be limited to, the distribution of  
21 materials to promote and operate the program throughout the State.  
22 To the maximum extent possible, the division shall implement and  
23 operate the program in every county in the State.

24 b. The division shall work with educational, public safety and  
25 environmental groups in order to promote volunteerism among  
26 these groups for the purpose of acting as program instructors,  
27 mentors or advisors. The division shall also work with public  
28 service organizations, sportsman groups and local merchants to  
29 encourage the donation of technical, material and financial  
30 assistance to the program.  
31

32 2. The division shall collect and maintain data on the Hooked  
33 on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program and provide an annual report to  
34 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
35 19.1), including information on the number of school districts or  
36 municipalities that have implemented the program and the number  
37 of pupils that are participating in the program. The report shall also  
38 include information on the effectiveness of the program in terms of  
39 drug usage avoidance or incidents among participating students.  
40

41 3. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,  
42 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be  
44 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.  
45

46 4. There is appropriated the sum of \$200,000 from the Drug  
47 Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, established pursuant to  
48 N.J.S.2C:35-15, to the Department of Environmental Protection to

1 fund the cost of implementing the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs  
2 Program established pursuant to this act. The Legislature, to the  
3 extent possible, shall ensure that sufficient appropriations from the  
4 Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund are included every  
5 year in the annual appropriations act to maintain the operation of  
6 the program.

7

8 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

#### STATEMENT

12

13 This bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs  
14 Program (HOFNOD) in the Department of Environmental  
15 Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

16 The bill establishes the HOFNOD program on a Statewide basis  
17 by enabling the Division of Fish and Wildlife to implement and  
18 model the program after the pilot HOFNOD program implemented  
19 in Ocean County in 2000. To the maximum extent possible, the  
20 division will implement and operate the program in every county in  
21 the State.

22 The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and  
23 Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental  
24 Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The  
25 appropriation will support the initial salary costs of a full-time  
26 program director, who will oversee and coordinate a predominantly  
27 volunteer staff. This funding may also be used to purchase fishing  
28 kits, an essential part of the program, and other program materials.

29 The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug  
30 Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account  
31 established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug  
32 offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol  
33 abuse abatement programs. The bill encourages the Legislature to  
34 appropriate sufficient funding from this source on an annual basis in  
35 the State Budget to support this program.

# SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 178

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 9, 2012

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 178.

This bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program (HOFNOD) in the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The bill establishes the HOFNOD program on a Statewide basis by enabling the Division of Fish and Wildlife to implement and model the program after the pilot HOFNOD program implemented in Ocean County in 2000. To the maximum extent possible, the division will implement and operate the program in every county in the State.

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The appropriation will support the initial salary costs of a full-time program director, who will oversee and coordinate a predominantly volunteer staff. This funding may also be used to purchase fishing kits, an essential part of the program, and other program materials.

The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs. The bill encourages the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding from this source on an annual basis in the State Budget to support this program.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.



# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 178**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 7, 2012

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 178, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program in the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

As amended, the bill establishes the program on a Statewide basis by requiring the division to implement and model the program after a similar pilot program implemented in Ocean County in 2000. To the maximum extent possible, the division will implement and operate the program in every county in the State.

The bill requires the division to collect and maintain data on the program. The bill requires the division to provide an annual report on the program to the Legislature, and stipulates certain information required to be included in the report.

The bill appropriates \$200,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program. The bill establishes the program's funding source as the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs. The bill encourages the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding annually from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund or any other appropriate source to maintain the operation of the program in future years.

This bill, as amended, is identical to A-638 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments: (1) require the Division of Fish and Wildlife to assign staff to develop strategies for assisting school districts or other interested public service organizations in implementing the program, which may include, but not be limited to, the distribution of materials to promote and operate the program throughout the State; (2) encourage the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding annually from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund or any other appropriate source to maintain the

operation of the program in future years; (3) encourage the division to work with educational, public safety, and environmental groups to promote volunteerism among these groups for the purpose of acting as program instructors, mentors, or advisors; and, (4) encourage the division to work with public service organizations, sportsman groups, and local merchants to encourage the donation of technical, material, and financial assistance to the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the program.

## Governor Chris Christie Signs Legislation to Help Young New Jerseyans Avoid Drug Use

Friday, September 21, 2012 Tags: [Bill Action](#)

### ***"Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program Will Provide School Children with Access to Fishing and Outdoor Activities***

Trenton, NJ – Encouraging young New Jerseyans to avoid the dangers of drug use by engaging in positive, safe and life-building group activities, Governor Chris Christie signed A-638, creating the "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program across the state. The program will provide students with access to extracurricular outlets that utilize New Jersey's incredible outdoor recreational assets. Established within the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Fish and Wildlife, the statewide implementation of the "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program will also be funded through an appropriation of \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund and provide students with the opportunity to embrace positive life skills as an alternative to the pitfalls of drug abuse.

"We have a responsibility to guide young New Jerseyans away from the dangers of drug use and other illicit activities that too easily take hold of lives and tear apart our families," said Governor Christie. "The 'Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs' Program will help steer young men and women away from the pitfalls of drug abuse by utilizing our great outdoors to create educational, recreational and mentorship opportunities. I thank the sponsors of this legislation for investing in the future of New Jersey's children and young adults, as well as the Department of Environmental Protection for helping move forward with this important priority."

Established within DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife, the "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program is based on a national program developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation, and will use Division staff support to assist school districts and other public service organizations in implementing the program throughout the state. To improve and maintain the effectiveness of the program, the Division will collect and maintain data on the program and provide an annual report to the legislature. Information detailed in the annual report will include the number of participating school districts, students and municipalities, as well as data used to determine the rate of drug avoidance or incidence among students participating in the program.

"I'd like to thank Governor Christie, state legislators, and those in the Department of Environmental Protection, for their bipartisan support of a program designed as a gateway to teach youth about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle," said Anthony P. Mauro, Sr., chairman of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance. "It is heartening to see that in spite of our increasingly sophisticated world, there remains recognition of the benefits of a 'back to basics' approach in dealing with the challenges facing our state's youth. In the end, exposure to, and understanding of, the natural world by our children is what will ultimately save it. 'Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs' is a giant step towards this end."

The legislation also appropriates funding for the "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program through the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to DEP to cover the cost of implementing the program statewide, and sufficient appropriations from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund, or other appropriate sources, will be reserved annually to maintain the operation of the program. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will also work with educational, public safety and environmental groups, including sportsman groups and local merchants, to promote volunteerism in the form of mentoring young adults within the program and to encourage the donation of technical, material and financial assistance to the program.

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Assemblymembers Brian E. Rumpf (R-Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean), Herb Conaway, Jr. (D-Burlington), DiAnne C. Gove (R-Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean), and Nelson T. Albano (D-Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland).

###

**Stay Connected**  
with Social Media

**Stay Connected**  
with Email Alerts

**LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.**

SHARE    