

52:9V-1 to 52:9V-7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 52:9V-1 to 52:9V-7

(Columbus' Discovery of America - 500th Anniversary - establish Commission to plan celebration.

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 378

Bill No: S1695

Sponsor(s): Orechio and others

Date Introduced: September 16, 1982

Committee: Assembly: State Government, Civil Service, Elections and Veterans Affairs.

Senate: State Government, Federal and Interstate Relations and Veterans Affairs.

Amended during passage: NO

Date of Passage: Assembly: September 15, 1983

Senate: October 18, 1982

Date of Approval: November 10, 1983

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: YES

Committee statement: Assembly YES

Senate YES

Fiscal Note: NO

Veto Message: NO

Message on Signing: ~~NO~~ Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: NO

Hearings: NO

rdv

SENATE, No. 1695

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

By Senators ORECHIO, DiFRANCESCO, COSTELLO, GAGLIANO,  
LaROCCA, LIPMAN and FELDMAN

Referred to Committee on State Government, Federal and  
Interstate Relations and Veterans Affairs

AN ACT creating a commission to plan Statewide celebrations of  
the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America and  
making an appropriation.

1 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus' discovery of America was one of  
2 the great geographical discoveries of world history; and

3 WHEREAS, This achievement was the result of Columbus' enormous  
4 energy, determination, courage, talent, and intelligence, qualities  
5 which enabled him to convince the Spanish monarchy to entrust  
6 an expedition to him even though his country of origin was not  
7 Spain; and

8 WHEREAS, Columbus' historic voyage of discovery changed the  
8A course of world history of inaugurating regular contact between  
9 Europe and America and preparing the way for a massive  
10 migration of people from all parts of the world seeking freedom,  
11 democracy, and prosperity; and

12 WHEREAS, The result of this migration throughout the years since  
13 1492 has been the formation in the "New World" of a unique  
14 civilization and society; and

15 WHEREAS, An observance of Columbus' discovery is altogether  
16 fitting and proper in New Jersey where Americans of Italian  
17 heritage comprise the State's largest ethnic group, consisting of  
18 2 million residents whose contributions of talent, intelligence,  
19 creativeness and courage are so vital to New Jersey life; and

20 WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey should take steps immediately  
21 to prepare to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' dis-  
22 covery of America, to cooperate with the observances by other  
23 states in the Union and sister republics in the Americas, and to  
24 stimulate appropriate commemorative programs throughout  
25 New Jersey; now, therefore,

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

1 1. There is created the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial  
2 Observance Commission (hereinafter referred to as the commis-  
3 sion) which shall consist of two members of the Senate and two  
4 public members, appointed by the President of the Senate, two  
5 members of the General Assembly and two public members,  
6 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and six public  
7 members and two officials of the executive branch, appointed by the  
8 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. No more than  
9 one of each group of two members appointed by the President and  
10 the Speaker and no more than four of the group of eight members  
11 appointed by the Governor shall be of the same political party.

12 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in  
13 the same manner as the original appointments were made. All  
14 members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed  
15 for their expenses actually incurred in the performance of their  
16 duties.

17 Selections of public members shall be made on the basis of their  
18 academic experience, their expertise or interest in historical re-  
19 search, or their experience in promoting community programs and  
20 activities.

1 2. The commission shall organize as soon as may be after the  
2 appointment of its members and shall select a chairman and a vice  
3 chairman from among its members and a secretary, who need not  
4 be a member of the commission.

1 3. It shall be the duty of the commission to plan State observances  
2 of the Quincentennial of Columbus' discovery of America, including  
3 festive programs in traditional communities of Italian character in  
4 New Jersey; to plan educational programs which shall be made  
5 available for use in New Jersey public schools to make students  
6 aware of Columbus' achievement in discovering America; and to  
7 coordinate observances with sister states in the Union and sister  
8 republics in the Americas, including informing their governments  
9 and legislatures of New Jersey's actions.

1 4. The commission may employ such professional, stenographic,  
2 or clerical assistants, and may incur such traveling and other

3 miscellaneous expenses, as it deems necessary in order to perform  
4 its duties and as may be within the limits of funds appropriated or  
5 otherwise made available to it for those purposes.

1 5. The commission may call to its assistance and avail itself of  
2 the services of such employees of any state, county, or municipal  
3 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require  
4 and as may be available to it for that purpose.

1 6. The commission shall submit an annual report on its activities  
2 to the Governor and the Legislature.

1 7. The commission may accept donations or grants of money,  
2 property or personal services from any source.

1 8. There is appropriated to the commission from the General  
2 State Fund the sum of \$25,000.00 for the purposes of this act.

1 9. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on  
2 January 1, 1993.

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#### STATEMENT

The purpose of this bill is to create the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Observance Commission for the purpose of organizing and coordinating festivities, programs and events in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America.

In 1892, on the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery, the World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago, the Columbian Exposition commemorative postage stamp series was issued and the Columbian half dollar was minted. In celebration of the 500th anniversary on October 12, 1992, organizations are planning to sail replicas of the "Santa Maria," the "Pinta" and the "Nina" along Columbus' original course across the Atlantic ocean. This bill authorizes the commission it creates to begin planning activities in New Jersey to celebrate this great event in world history.

The bill makes an appropriation of \$25,000.00 to pay for the preliminary stages of planning for the Quincentennial of Columbus' discovery of America.

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ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SERVICE,  
ELECTIONS, PENSIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 1695**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 31, 1983

This bill creates and provides for certain funding of a Columbus Quincentennial Observance Commission.

The commission would consist of 16 members: two members of the Senate and two public members, appointed by the President of the Senate, two members of the General Assembly and two public members, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and six public members and two officials of the executive branch, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. No more than one of each group of two members appointed by the President and the Speaker and no more than four of the group of eight members appointed by the Governor shall be of the same political party.

The duties of the commission would be to plan State observances of Columbus's discovery of America; to plan educational programs to foster public school students' awareness of Columbus's achievement; and to coordinate the State's observance of the anniversary with those of other entities.

The bill appropriates to the commission the sum of \$25,000.00.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL AND  
INTERSTATE RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1695**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: SEPTEMBER 23, 1982

This act establishes the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Observance Commission. The commission shall organize and coordinate festivities, programs and events in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. The quincentennial will take place in 1992.

This bill appropriates \$25,000.00 to finance preliminary planning.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: PAUL WOLCOTT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed the following bills:

S-1209, sponsored by State Senator James W. Bornheimer, D-Middlesex, which allows the formation of a self-insured trust enabling hospitals, as a group, to self-insure for worker's compensation liability.

S-1470, sponsored by State Senator Francis J. McManimon, D-Mercer, which appropriates \$4,560,000 from the State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition and Development Fund (Green Acres) to the Department of Environmental Protection for the acquisition of land for recreation and conservation purposes. The bill specifies that \$1.5 million be used for the capitalization of the proposed Pinelands Development Credit Bank, (legislation creating the bank is currently pending in the Legislature as A-1259). Green Acres projects funded by the appropriation are: Pinelands acquisitions in Burlington County; Appalachian Trail North and South in Sussex and Passaic Counties; Turkey Swamp Wildlife Management Area and Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, both in Monmouth County; Black River Wildlife Management Area and Berkshire Valley Wildlife Management Area, both in Morris County; various marine access sites in Monmouth and Atlantic Counties and miscellaneous purchases to round out State acquisition programs.

S-1695, sponsored by State Senator Carmen Orechio, D-Essex, which creates the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Observation Commission to plan Statewide celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus.