

58:10-23.12 to 58:10-23.14

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

(Hazardous Waste Health Care
Task Force--appropriation)

NJSA 58:10-23.12 to 58:10-23.14

LAWS 1981

CHAPTER 456

Bill No. A2338

Sponsor(s) Lesniak

Date Introduced Dec. 8, 1980

Committee: Assembly Institutions, Health & Welfare

Senate Revenue, Finance & Appropriations

Amended during passage Yes No

Date of Passage: Assembly April 27, 1981

Senate Nov. 16, 1981

Date of approval Jan. 11, 1982

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~No~~

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~No~~

Senate Yes ~~No~~

Fiscal Note ~~Yes~~ No

Veto Message ~~Yes~~ No

Message on signing Yes ~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports ~~Yes~~ No

Hearings ~~Yes~~ No

6/22/81
1003

ASSEMBLY, No. 2338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 8, 1980

By Assemblyman LESNIAK

Referred to Committee on Institutions, Health and Welfare

A SUPPLEMENT to the "Spill Compensation and Control Act," approved January 6, 1977 (P. L. 1976, c. 141; C. 58:10-23.11 et seq.), establishing a Hazardous Waste Health Care Task Force, and appropriating \$250,000.00 from the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund.

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

1 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the incidence of haz-
2 arduous waste discharges into the environment is increasing at an
3 alarming rate; that public concern over the potential adverse health
4 effects of exposure to such waste is growing; that estimation of
5 risk to a community of exposure to toxic chemicals and the deter-
6 mination of any health consequences that may result from the
7 exposure requires sophisticated and costly biomedical and epidemi-
8 ological investigation; that there is currently no Federal, State,
9 or local program that provides the medical or financial assistance
10 required to protect potential victims; and that a State program
11 to conduct diagnostic examination of victims of exposure, evaluate
12 the potential adverse health effects on affected communities of the
13 exposure, and plan to reduce the risk of environmental contamina-
14 tion in areas with high potential for hazardous discharges is there-
15 fore necessary and appropriate.

1 2. There is established within the Division of Epidemiology and
2 Disease Control in the Department of Health a Hazardous Waste
3 Health Care Task Force. It shall be the duty of this task force to
4 develop and implement a program to classify and evaluate the
5 threats to health posed by exposure to hazardous discharges, to
6 determine those at greatest risk, to conduct such initial diagnostic
7 testing as may be necessary or appropriate to identify potential
8 victims of any hazardous discharge, and to plan to reduce the
9 dangers to communities at high risk.

1 3. The Commissioner of Health shall, within 45 days of the ef-
2 fective date of this supplementary act and in accordance with the
3 provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act" (P. L. 1968,
4 c. 410; C. 52:14B-1 et seq.) adopt rules and regulations necessary
5 to carry out the purposes of this supplementary act.

1 4. There is appropriated to the Department of Health from the
2 New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund the sum of \$250,000.00 to
3 carry out the provisions of this supplementary act.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

With the continuing identification of new potentially toxic agents in the environment and the increasing incidence of discharges of hazardous substances into the air and water as a result of illegal or unsafe storage and disposal of hazardous wastes, public concern about the adverse health effects of exposure to such substances is growing. Evaluation of such effects is a sophisticated and costly process, beyond the financial resources of most citizens. This bill responds to this concern by establishing in the Department of Health a Hazardous Waste Health Care Task Force to conduct initial testing of those exposed to hazardous discharges to determine potentially adverse health consequences, recommend further medical attention, evaluate risks to communities where such discharges take place, and undertake such planning as it deems appropriate to reduce the dangers in areas where potential for environmental contamination is especially high. It appropriates \$250,000.00 to the Department of Health from the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund to carry out this program.

1 3. The Commissioner of Health shall, within 45 days of the ef-
2 fective date of this supplementary act and in accordance with the
3 provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act" (P. L. 1968,
4 c. 410; C. 52:14B-1 et seq.) adopt rules and regulations necessary
5 to carry out the purposes of this supplementary act.

1 4. There is appropriated to the Department of Health from the
2 New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund the sum of \$250,000.00 to
3 carry out the provisions of this supplementary act.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

With the continuing identification of new potentially toxic agents in the environment and the increasing incidence of discharges of hazardous substances into the air and water as a result of illegal or unsafe storage and disposal of hazardous wastes, public concern about the adverse health effects of exposure to such substances is growing. Evaluation of such effects is a sophisticated and costly process, beyond the financial resources of most citizens. This bill responds to this concern by establishing in the Department of Health a Hazardous Waste Health Care Task Force to conduct initial testing of those exposed to hazardous discharges to determine potentially adverse health consequences, recommend further medical attention, evaluate risks to communities where such discharges take place, and undertake such planning as it deems appropriate to reduce the dangers in areas where potential for environmental contamination is especially high. It appropriates \$250,000.00 to the Department of Health from the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund to carry out this program.

A2338 (1981)

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ASSEMBLY INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 2338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 19, 1981

This bill establishes a Hazardous Waste Health Care Task Force within the Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control in the State Department of Health. It would conduct initial testing of those individuals exposed to hazardous discharges to determine health consequences, recommend further medical attention, if warranted, evaluate risks to communities where discharges occur and undertake appropriation planning to reduce dangers in those areas where environmental contamination may be high.

The bill appropriates \$250,000.00 to the department from the Spill Compensation Fund. This is a non-lapsing, revolving fund in the Department of the Treasury established pursuant to the "Spill Compensation and Control Act," P. L. 1976, c. 141 (C. 58:10-23.11 et seq.).

The committee agrees with the purpose of this legislation and released the bill without amendment.

SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 29, 1981

Assembly Bill No. 2338 establishes in the Department of Health a Hazardous Waste Health Care Task Force to conduct initial testing of those exposed to hazardous discharges to determine potentially adverse health consequences, recommend further medical attention, evaluate risks to communities where such discharges take place, and undertake such planning as it deems appropriate to reduce the dangers in areas where potential for environmental contamination is especially high. It appropriates \$250,000.00 to the Department of Health from the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund to carry out this program.

The second bill, A-2338, also sponsored by Assemblyman Lesniak, establishes a Hazardous Waste Health Care Task Force within the Department of Health's Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the Spill Compensation and Control Fund to the Department of Health, and mandates that the Commissioner adopt all rules necessary for putting the Task Force in place within 45 days after enactment.

Under the bill, the Task Force will evaluate the health effects of exposure to toxic waste discharges and present recommendations for reducing the dangers in high-risk communities.

In addition, the Task Force will conduct diagnostic tests to identify potential victims of hazardous discharges. The tests will examine both acute exposure, caused in many instances by explosions and fires, and longer-term, low-level exposure.

Assemblyman Lesniak said the legislation was necessary because the evaluation of health problems caused by toxic wastes is "often a sophisticated and costly process beyond the financial resources of most citizens."

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