

13:1H-8 to 13:1H-11

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

HJSA 13:1H-8 to 13:1H-11 ("Aid for Urban Environmental Concerns Act")

LAWS OF 1979 CHAPTER 56

Bill No. S3073

Sponsor(s) Merlino

Date Introduced January 25, 1979

Committee: Assembly -----

Senate Revenue, Finance & Appropriations

Amended during passage XXX No

Date of Passage: Assembly February 26, 1979

Senate January 30, 1979

Date of approval March 27, 1979

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	Yes	<u>XX</u>	(Below)
Committee Statement: Assembly	<u>XXX</u>	No	
Senate	<u>XXX</u>	No	
Fiscal Note	<u>XXX</u>	No	
Veto message	<u>XXX</u>	No	
Message on signing	Yes	<u>XX</u>	

Following were printed:

Reports	<u>XXX</u>	No
Hearings	<u>XXX</u>	No

Sponsor's statement:

This bill establishes the statutory direction for the urban environmental concerns program. The Legislature included a \$100,000.00 appropriation for aid for such concerns in the 1979 budget. The bill allows for the implementation of that appropriation.

med
2/1/79

DEPOSIT COPY
Do Not Remove From Library

SENATE, No. 3073

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 1979

By Senator MERLINO

Referred to Committee on Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

AN ACT relating to the urban environmental concerns program, providing State aid to certain environmental agencies and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Aid for
2 Urban Environmental Concerns Act."

1 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that urban com-
2 munities, where the high population and building densities, aged
3 housing stock, economic decline and incidence of poverty present
4 special problems, have unique environmental concerns; and that
5 State assistance can help environmental agencies meet such
6 concerns.

1 3. As used in this act:

2 a. "Department" means the Department of Environmental Pro-
3 tection.

4 b. "Eligible municipality" means a municipality eligible for aid
5 pursuant to P. L. 1978, c. 14 (C. 52:27D-178 et seq.) or pursuant to
6 the "Depressed Rural Centers Aid Act," P. L. 1977, c. 260
7 (C. 52:27D-162 et seq.).

8 c. "Environmental agency" means (1) a municipal parks or
9 recreation department or commission; (2) a municipal planning
10 department or board; (3) a municipal environmental commission,
11 (4) a county parks department or commission, or (5) a county
12 environmental commission.

13 d. "Project" may include, but is not limited to, artwork in public
14 places, street scaping, flower gardens, flowering trees, neighbor-
15 hood sitting places and recreation areas.

1 4. The department may grant up to \$10,000.00 per year in State
2 aid to any environmental agency for a project or projects address-
3 ing urban environmental concerns within an eligible municipality.

4 The contribution by the department shall not exceed 80% of the
5 cost of the project which qualifies for assistance under this act.
1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the statutory direction for the urban environmental concerns program. The Legislature included a \$100,000.00 appropriation for aid for such concerns in the 1979 budget. The bill allows for the implementation of that appropriation.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

MARCH 27, 1979

PAT SWEENEY

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed the following bills in a public ceremony:

A-1654, sponsored by Assemblywoman Barbara P. Berman (D-Camden), appropriates \$46 million to the Department of Environmental Protection, from the 1974 Green Acres Fund, for recreation and conservation purposes. The breakdown is as follows: \$6 million for State acquisition of land for recreation and conservation; \$20 million for State grants to assist local units of government to acquire lands; and \$20 million for State grants to assist local units of government to develop lands.

The Governor praised the Berman-sponsored bill as "a further advance in providing open space through the popular, worthwhile Green Acres program."

S-1196, sponsored by Senator William J. Hamilton (D-Middlesex), appropriates \$6 million in Green Acres funds for State acquisition of lands to be included in Pigeon Swamp State Park, South Brunswick, Middlesex County. The sum of \$4 million will come from the 1974 Green Acres Fund and \$2 million will come from the 1971 Green Acres Fund.

^{S 3073}
~~S-3037~~, sponsored by Senate President Joseph P. Merlino (D-Mercer), establishes the legislative intent for the Urban Environmental Concerns Program, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Legislature included a \$100,000 appropriation for aid for such concerns in the Fiscal Year 1979 Budget.

Under this bill, urban aid municipalities and municipalities eligible for aid under the "Depressed Rural Centers Aid Act" would be eligible for a State grant of up to 80 percent of the cost of an urban environmental project such as art work in public places, flower gardens and recreational areas. Grants could be made to a municipal parks department, environmental commission, county parks department or county environmental commission.

-continued-