



**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**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

RWH/JA

§§1-5 -  
C.27:7-42.2 to  
27:7-42.6  
§6 - C.27:23-60  
§7 - C.27:25A-51

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 44, *approved May 1, 2017*  
Senate, No. 724 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
2 Management Program” and supplementing Title 27 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. It is in the public interest of the State of New Jersey to  
10 ensure that the roadsides in New Jersey are safe, ecologically  
11 integrated, and useful for many purposes;

12 b. Roadsides serve as physical barriers, sound barriers, and  
13 highway beautifiers and provide refuge for many animals, insects,  
14 and plants native to New Jersey;

15 c. A coordinated effort by the State and public and private  
16 entities to include native plants and wildflowers in the management  
17 of the roadsides will create biodiversity, improve scenic value,  
18 preserve wildlife habitats, prevent soil erosion, and provide other  
19 environmental benefits to the State; and

20 d. It is altogether fitting and proper for the Legislature to  
21 establish an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
22 Program” within the Department of Transportation, to encourage  
23 the preservation and repopulation of native plants and wildflowers  
24 along the roadsides of New Jersey.

25  
26 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
27 Legislature as this bill):

28 “Advisory Committee” means the Integrated Roadside  
29 Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee established  
30 by section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
31 Legislature as this bill).

32 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Transportation.

33 “Coordinator” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
34 Management Coordinator established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
35 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

**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>Senate SEN committee amendments adopted September 8, 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AEN committee amendments adopted October 13, 2016.

1       “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

2       “Private entity” means any private individual, corporation,  
3 company, partnership, firm, association, owner, operator, non-profit  
4 organization, or community-based group, but shall not include, any  
5 municipal, county, or State agency or authority, or any agency,  
6 authority, or subdivision created by one or more municipal, county,  
7 or State government.

8       “Program” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
9 Management Program established by section 3 of P.L.       ,  
10 c. (C.       ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

11

12       3. a. There is established, within the Department of  
13 Transportation, an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
14 Program” to:

15       (1) Assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State;

16       (2) Develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside  
17 vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and  
18 planting along roadsides, with <sup>2</sup>an<sup>2</sup> emphasis on adaptable  
19 vegetation with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers  
20 <sup>2</sup>, and incorporating any requirements pursuant to any other law, or  
21 rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting  
22 of native vegetation<sup>2</sup> ;

23       (3) Conduct research and feasibility studies for the  
24 comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and  
25 for future integrated roadside management projects;

26       (4) Implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation  
27 management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a  
28 variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control,  
29 weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility  
30 easements;

31       (5) Incorporate integrated roadside management best practices  
32 for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant  
33 species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
34 habitats;

35       (6) Expand or create public education programs about the  
36 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the  
37 State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining  
38 roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals;  
39 and

40       (7) Coordinate with other private entities and government  
41 entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
42 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
43 governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the  
44 State.

45       b. The Commissioner of Transportation shall appoint an  
46 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
47 administer the program. The coordinator shall be responsible for

1 implementing the program goals as established by subsection a. of  
2 this section.

3  
4 4. a. There is created, within the Department of  
5 Transportation, an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
6 Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the  
7 development and implementation of the program. The advisory  
8 committee shall consist of <sup>1</sup>~~eight~~ 10<sup>1</sup> members as follows:  
9 <sup>1</sup>~~five~~ six<sup>1</sup> members of the public appointed by the Governor who  
10 shall include one member with background or experience in the  
11 protection, preservation, maintenance, or management of native  
12 animal, insects, or plant populations, one member with background  
13 or experience in the preservation of natural or scenic resources, one  
14 member with background or experience in landscaping, <sup>1</sup>one  
15 member who holds a license in landscape architecture pursuant to  
16 P.L.1983, c.337 ( <sup>2</sup>C.<sup>2</sup> 45:3A-1 et al.),<sup>1</sup> one member with  
17 background or experience in highway engineering, and one member  
18 with background or experience in biodiversity, environmental  
19 engineering, or environmental science; the Commissioner of  
20 Transportation, or the Commissioner of Transportation's designee,  
21 who shall serve as an ex-officio voting member; the Commissioner  
22 of Environmental Protection, or the Commissioner of  
23 Environmental Protection's designee, who shall serve as an ex-  
24 officio voting member; <sup>1</sup>the Secretary of Agriculture, or the  
25 Secretary of Agriculture's designee, who shall serve as an ex-  
26 officio voting member;<sup>1</sup> and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
27 Management Coordinator, who shall serve as a non-voting member  
28 and secretary to the advisory committee.

29 b. The public members shall serve for a term of three years  
30 from the date of their appointment and until their successors are  
31 appointed and qualified, except that of the members first appointed,  
32 three members shall serve for a term of three years and <sup>1</sup>~~two~~  
33 three<sup>1</sup> members shall serve for a term of two years. Vacancies shall  
34 be filled for the balance of any unexpired term in the same manner  
35 as the original appointment was made. Public members of the  
36 advisory committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

37 c. The members of the advisory committee shall serve without  
38 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable  
39 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, within  
40 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this  
41 purpose.

42 d. The advisory committee shall select a chairperson and a  
43 vice-chairperson from among its public members, who shall each  
44 serve a one-year term but may be selected to serve successive  
45 terms. The advisory committee shall meet upon the call of the  
46 chairperson or a majority of its voting members. A majority of the  
47 voting members of the advisory committee shall constitute a

1 quorum, and no action of the advisory committee shall be taken  
2 except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting  
3 members of the entire advisory committee.

4 e. The advisory committee activities shall include, but not be  
5 limited to:

6 (1) Studying and evaluating prevailing research related to  
7 biodiversity, climate control, invasive species control, native plant  
8 life cycles, soil erosion, and other environmental or roadside  
9 vegetation management related subjects;

10 (2) Securing funding for research, feasibility studies, and  
11 integrated roadside vegetation management projects;

12 (3) Establishing integrated roadside vegetation management best  
13 practices;

14 (4) Advising the department on the necessity of regulations or  
15 revisions to applicable department regulations that concern roadside  
16 vegetation management; and

17 (5) Developing strategies for educating public officials, owners  
18 of property adjacent to roadsides, and the general public on  
19 integrated roadside vegetation management best practices.

20 f. The advisory committee shall report annually on its  
21 activities to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature  
22 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

23  
24 5. A county or municipality may establish an integrated  
25 roadside vegetation management program, provided that the  
26 program established by the county or municipality is consistent with  
27 the program established pursuant section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
28 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

29  
30 6. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority may establish an  
31 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
32 the program established by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is  
33 consistent with the program established pursuant section 3 of  
34 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

35  
36 7. The South Jersey Transportation Authority may establish an  
37 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
38 the program established by the South Jersey Transportation  
39 Authority is consistent with the program established pursuant  
40 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
41 as this bill).

42  
43 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

44  
45  
46  
47 Establishes “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
48 Program.”

**SENATE, No. 724**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
2 Management Program” and supplementing Title 27 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. It is in the public interest of the State of New Jersey to  
10 ensure that the roadsides in New Jersey are safe, ecologically  
11 integrated, and useful for many purposes;

12 b. Roadsides serve as physical barriers, sound barriers, and  
13 highway beautifiers and provide refuge for many animals, insects,  
14 and plants native to New Jersey;

15 c. A coordinated effort by the State and public and private  
16 entities to include native plants and wildflowers in the management  
17 of the roadsides will create biodiversity, improve scenic value,  
18 preserve wildlife habitats, prevent soil erosion, and provide other  
19 environmental benefits to the State; and

20 d. It is altogether fitting and proper for the Legislature to  
21 establish an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
22 Program” within the Department of Transportation, to encourage  
23 the preservation and repopulation of native plants and wildflowers  
24 along the roadsides of New Jersey.

25  
26 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
27 Legislature as this bill):

28 “Advisory Committee” means the Integrated Roadside  
29 Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee established  
30 by section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
31 Legislature as this bill).

32 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Transportation.

33 “Coordinator” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
34 Management Coordinator established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
35 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

36 “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

37 “Private entity” means any private individual, corporation,  
38 company, partnership, firm, association, owner, operator, non-profit  
39 organization, or community-based group, but shall not include, any  
40 municipal, county, or State agency or authority, or any agency,  
41 authority, or subdivision created by one or more municipal, county,  
42 or State government.

43 “Program” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
44 Management Program established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
45 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).



1 3. a. There is established, within the Department of  
2 Transportation, an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
3 Program” to:

- 4 (1) Assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State;
- 5 (2) Develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside  
6 vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and  
7 planting along roadsides, with emphasis on adaptable vegetation  
8 with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers;
- 9 (3) Conduct research and feasibility studies for the  
10 comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and  
11 for future integrated roadside management projects;
- 12 (4) Implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation  
13 management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a  
14 variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control,  
15 weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility  
16 easements;
- 17 (5) Incorporate integrated roadside management best practices  
18 for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant  
19 species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
20 habitats;
- 21 (6) Expand or create public education programs about the  
22 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the  
23 State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining  
24 roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals;  
25 and
- 26 (7) Coordinate with other private entities and government  
27 entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
28 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
29 governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the  
30 State.

31 b. The Commissioner of Transportation shall appoint an  
32 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
33 administer the program. The coordinator shall be responsible for  
34 implementing the program goals as established by subsection a. of  
35 this section.  
36

37 4. a. There is created, within the Department of Transportation,  
38 an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical  
39 Advisory Committee to provide advice on the development and  
40 implementation of the program. The advisory committee shall  
41 consist of eight members as follows: five members of the public  
42 appointed by the Governor who shall include one member with  
43 background or experience in the protection, preservation,  
44 maintenance, or management of native animal, insects, or plant  
45 populations, one member with background or experience in the  
46 preservation of natural or scenic resources, one member with  
47 background or experience in landscaping, one member with  
48 background or experience in highway engineering, and one member

1 with background or experience in biodiversity, environmental  
2 engineering, or environmental science; the Commissioner of  
3 Transportation, or the Commissioner of Transportation's designee,  
4 who shall serve as an ex-officio voting member; the Commissioner  
5 of Environmental Protection, or the Commissioner of  
6 Environmental Protection's designee, who shall serve as an ex-  
7 officio voting member; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
8 Management Coordinator, who shall serve as a non-voting member  
9 and secretary to the advisory committee.

10 b. The public members shall serve for a term of three years  
11 from the date of their appointment and until their successors are  
12 appointed and qualified, except that of the members first appointed,  
13 three members shall serve for a term of three years and two  
14 members shall serve for a term of two years. Vacancies shall be  
15 filled for the balance of any unexpired term in the same manner as  
16 the original appointment was made. Public members of the  
17 advisory committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

18 c. The members of the advisory committee shall serve without  
19 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable  
20 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, within  
21 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this  
22 purpose.

23 d. The advisory committee shall select a chairperson and a  
24 vice-chairperson from among its public members, who shall each  
25 serve a one-year term but may be selected to serve successive  
26 terms. The advisory committee shall meet upon the call of the  
27 chairperson or a majority of its voting members. A majority of the  
28 voting members of the advisory committee shall constitute a  
29 quorum, and no action of the advisory committee shall be taken  
30 except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting  
31 members of the entire advisory committee.

32 e. The advisory committee activities shall include, but not be  
33 limited to:

34 (1) Studying and evaluating prevailing research related to  
35 biodiversity, climate control, invasive species control, native plant  
36 life cycles, soil erosion, and other environmental or roadside  
37 vegetation management related subjects;

38 (2) Securing funding for research, feasibility studies, and  
39 integrated roadside vegetation management projects;

40 (3) Establishing integrated roadside vegetation management best  
41 practices;

42 (4) Advising the department on the necessity of regulations or  
43 revisions to applicable department regulations that concern roadside  
44 vegetation management; and

45 (5) Developing strategies for educating public officials, owners  
46 of property adjacent to roadsides, and the general public on  
47 integrated roadside vegetation management best practices.

1 f. The advisory committee shall report annually on its  
2 activities to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature  
3 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

4  
5 5. A county or municipality may establish an integrated  
6 roadside vegetation management program, provided that the  
7 program established by the county or municipality is consistent with  
8 the program established pursuant section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

10  
11 6. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority may establish an  
12 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
13 the program established by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is  
14 consistent with the program established pursuant section 3 of  
15 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

16  
17 7. The South Jersey Transportation Authority may establish an  
18 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
19 the program established by the South Jersey Transportation  
20 Authority is consistent with the program established pursuant  
21 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
22 as this bill).

23  
24 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

25  
26  
27 STATEMENT

28  
29 The bill would establish, within the Department of  
30 Transportation (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
31 Management Program” (program) to: (1) assess the conditions  
32 existing along roadsides in the State; (2) develop and adopt a  
33 comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan for  
34 cost effective maintenance and planting along roadsides, with  
35 emphasis on adaptable vegetation with long life cycles, native  
36 vegetation, and wildflowers; (3) conduct research and feasibility  
37 studies for the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation  
38 management plan and for future integrated roadside management  
39 projects; (4) implement the comprehensive integrated roadside  
40 vegetation management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will  
41 serve a variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion  
42 control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility  
43 easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management best  
44 practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive  
45 plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
46 habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the  
47 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the  
48 State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining

1 roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals;  
2 and (7) coordinate with other private entities and government  
3 entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
4 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
5 governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the  
6 State.

7 Under the bill, the DOT Commissioner would appoint an  
8 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
9 implement the program's goals.

10 The bill also would establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
11 Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on  
12 the development and implementation of the program. The advisory  
13 committee would consist of eight members as follows: five  
14 members appointed by the Governor with relevant background or  
15 experience; the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's  
16 designee; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the  
17 commissioner's designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
18 Management Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting  
19 member and secretary to the advisory committee. The advisory  
20 committee would report annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the  
21 Legislature regarding its activities.

22 The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
23 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
24 governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation  
25 management programs, provided that those programs are consistent  
26 with the program established by this bill.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 724**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: OCTOBER 13, 2016

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 724 (1R).

The bill, with committee amendments, would establish, within the Department of Transportation (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program” (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and planting along roadsides, with an emphasis on adaptable vegetation with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers and incorporating any requirements pursuant to any other law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting of native vegetation; (3) conduct research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals; and (7) coordinate with other private entities and government entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

Under the bill, the DOT Commissioner would appoint an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to implement the program’s goals.

The bill also would establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the development and implementation of the program. As amended, the bill provides that the advisory committee would consist of 10 members as follows: six members appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience; the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee; the Secretary of Agriculture or the secretary's designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary to the advisory committee. The advisory committee would report annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its activities.

The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the program established by this bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3604 as also amended and reported by the committee.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments to the bill: (1) require the integrated roadside vegetation management plan to incorporate any requirements pursuant to any other law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting of native vegetation; and (2) make a technical correction in section 4.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 724**

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 724 (2R).

This bill establishes within the Department of Transportation (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program” (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and planting along roadsides, with an emphasis on adaptable vegetation with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers and incorporating any requirements pursuant to any other law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting of native vegetation; (3) conduct research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals; and (7) coordinate with other private entities and government entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

The bill requires that the DOT Commissioner appoint an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to implement the program’s goals.

The bill also establishes an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the development and implementation of the program. The bill provides

that the advisory committee consist of 10 members as follows: six members appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience; the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee; the Secretary of Agriculture or the secretary's designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary to the advisory committee. The bill provides that the advisory committee report annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its activities.

The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the program established by this bill.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3604 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.



# SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 724**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: AUGUST 8, 2016

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 724 with committee amendments.

The bill, with committee amendments, would establish, within the Department of Transportation (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program” (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and planting along roadsides, with emphasis on adaptable vegetation with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers; (3) conduct research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals; and (7) coordinate with other private entities and government entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

Under the bill, the DOT Commissioner would appoint an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to implement the program’s goals.

The bill also would establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the development and implementation of the program. As amended, the bill provides that the advisory committee would consist of 10 members as follows: six members appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience; the DOT Commissioner or the

commissioner's designee; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee; the Secretary of Agriculture or the secretary's designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary to the advisory committee. The advisory committee would report annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its activities.

The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the program established by this bill.

The committee amendments would increase the membership of the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee from eight to ten members by adding a State-licensed landscape architect to the public members appointed by the Governor, and the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee, who would serve ex-officio.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3604

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 7, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE**

**District 10 (Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Muoio**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/23/2016)**

1 AN ACT establishing an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
2 Management Program” and supplementing Title 27 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. It is in the public interest of the State of New Jersey to  
10 ensure that the roadsides in New Jersey are safe, ecologically  
11 integrated, and useful for many purposes;

12 b. Roadsides serve as physical barriers, sound barriers, and  
13 highway beautifiers and provide refuge for many animals, insects,  
14 and plants native to New Jersey;

15 c. A coordinated effort by the State and public and private  
16 entities to include native plants and wildflowers in the management  
17 of the roadsides will create biodiversity, improve scenic value,  
18 preserve wildlife habitats, prevent soil erosion, and provide other  
19 environmental benefits to the State; and

20 d. It is altogether fitting and proper for the Legislature to  
21 establish an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
22 Program” within the Department of Transportation, to encourage  
23 the preservation and repopulation of native plants and wildflowers  
24 along the roadsides of New Jersey.

25  
26 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
27 Legislature as this bill):

28 “Advisory Committee” means the Integrated Roadside  
29 Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee established  
30 by section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
31 Legislature as this bill).

32 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Transportation.

33 “Coordinator” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
34 Management Coordinator established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
35 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

36 “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

37 “Private entity” means any private individual, corporation,  
38 company, partnership, firm, association, owner, operator, non-profit  
39 organization, or community-based group, but shall not include, any  
40 municipal, county, or State agency or authority, or any agency,  
41 authority, or subdivision created by one or more municipal, county,  
42 or State government.

43 “Program” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
44 Management Program established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
45 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1       3. a. There is established, within the Department of  
2 Transportation, an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
3 Program” to:

- 4       (1) Assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State;  
5       (2) Develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside  
6 vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and  
7 planting along roadsides, with emphasis on adaptable vegetation  
8 with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers;  
9       (3) Conduct research and feasibility studies for the  
10 comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and  
11 for future integrated roadside management projects;  
12       (4) Implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation  
13 management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a  
14 variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control,  
15 weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility  
16 easements;  
17       (5) Incorporate integrated roadside management best practices  
18 for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant  
19 species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
20 habitats;  
21       (6) Expand or create public education programs about the  
22 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the  
23 State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining  
24 roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals;  
25 and

26       (7) Coordinate with other private entities and government  
27 entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
28 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
29 governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the  
30 State.

31       b. The Commissioner of Transportation shall appoint an  
32 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
33 administer the program. The coordinator shall be responsible for  
34 implementing the program goals as established by subsection a. of  
35 this section.

36  
37       4. a. There is created, within the Department of  
38 Transportation, an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
39 Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the  
40 development and implementation of the program. The advisory  
41 committee shall consist of eight members as follows: five members  
42 of the public appointed by the Governor who shall include one  
43 member with background or experience in the protection,  
44 preservation, maintenance, or management of native animal,  
45 insects, or plant populations, one member with background or  
46 experience in the preservation of natural or scenic resources, one  
47 member with background or experience in landscaping, one  
48 member with background or experience in highway engineering,

1 and one member with background or experience in biodiversity,  
2 environmental engineering, or environmental science; the  
3 Commissioner of Transportation, or the Commissioner of  
4 Transportation's designee, who shall serve as an ex-officio voting  
5 member; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
6 Commissioner of Environmental Protection's designee, who shall  
7 serve as an ex-officio voting member; and the Integrated Roadside  
8 Vegetation Management Coordinator, who shall serve as a non-  
9 voting member and secretary to the advisory committee.

10 b. The public members shall serve for a term of three years  
11 from the date of their appointment and until their successors are  
12 appointed and qualified, except that of the members first appointed,  
13 three members shall serve for a term of three years and two  
14 members shall serve for a term of two years. Vacancies shall be  
15 filled for the balance of any unexpired term in the same manner as  
16 the original appointment was made. Public members of the  
17 advisory committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

18 c. The members of the advisory committee shall serve without  
19 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable  
20 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, within  
21 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this  
22 purpose.

23 d. The advisory committee shall select a chairperson and a  
24 vice-chairperson from among its public members, who shall each  
25 serve a one-year term but may be selected to serve successive  
26 terms. The advisory committee shall meet upon the call of the  
27 chairperson or a majority of its voting members. A majority of the  
28 voting members of the advisory committee shall constitute a  
29 quorum, and no action of the advisory committee shall be taken  
30 except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting  
31 members of the entire advisory committee.

32 e. The advisory committee activities shall include, but not be  
33 limited to:

34 (1) Studying and evaluating prevailing research related to  
35 biodiversity, climate control, invasive species control, native plant  
36 life cycles, soil erosion, and other environmental or roadside  
37 vegetation management related subjects;

38 (2) Securing funding for research, feasibility studies, and  
39 integrated roadside vegetation management projects;

40 (3) Establishing integrated roadside vegetation management best  
41 practices;

42 (4) Advising the department on the necessity of regulations or  
43 revisions to applicable department regulations that concern roadside  
44 vegetation management; and

45 (5) Developing strategies for educating public officials, owners  
46 of property adjacent to roadsides, and the general public on  
47 integrated roadside vegetation management best practices.

1 f. The advisory committee shall report annually on its  
2 activities to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature  
3 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

4  
5 5. A county or municipality may establish an integrated  
6 roadside vegetation management program, provided that the  
7 program established by the county or municipality is consistent with  
8 the program established pursuant section 3 of P.L. ,  
9 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

10  
11 6. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority may establish an  
12 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
13 the program established by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is  
14 consistent with the program established pursuant section 3 of  
15 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

16  
17 7. The South Jersey Transportation Authority may establish an  
18 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
19 the program established by the South Jersey Transportation  
20 Authority is consistent with the program established pursuant  
21 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
22 as this bill).

23  
24 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

25  
26  
27 STATEMENT

28  
29 The bill would establish, within the Department of Transportation  
30 (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program”  
31 (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the  
32 State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside  
33 vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and  
34 planting along roadsides, with emphasis on adaptable vegetation with  
35 long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers; (3) conduct  
36 research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated  
37 roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated  
38 roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive  
39 integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides  
40 in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate  
41 control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats,  
42 and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management  
43 best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive  
44 plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
45 habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the  
46 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State,  
47 the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and  
48 other information consistent with the program goals; and (7)

**A3604 EUSTACE, WOLFE**

6

1 coordinate with other private entities and government entities,  
2 including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey  
3 Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments  
4 concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

5 Under the bill, the DOT Commissioner would appoint an  
6 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
7 implement the program's goals.

8 The bill also would establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
9 Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the  
10 development and implementation of the program. The advisory  
11 committee would consist of eight members as follows: five members  
12 appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience;  
13 the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the  
14 Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's  
15 designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
16 Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary  
17 to the advisory committee. The advisory committee would report  
18 annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its  
19 activities.

20 The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
21 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
22 governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management  
23 programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the  
24 program established by this bill.



# ASSEMBLY, No. 3604

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 7, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE**

**District 10 (Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Muoio**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/23/2016)**

1 AN ACT establishing an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
2 Management Program” and supplementing Title 27 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. It is in the public interest of the State of New Jersey to  
10 ensure that the roadsides in New Jersey are safe, ecologically  
11 integrated, and useful for many purposes;

12 b. Roadsides serve as physical barriers, sound barriers, and  
13 highway beautifiers and provide refuge for many animals, insects,  
14 and plants native to New Jersey;

15 c. A coordinated effort by the State and public and private  
16 entities to include native plants and wildflowers in the management  
17 of the roadsides will create biodiversity, improve scenic value,  
18 preserve wildlife habitats, prevent soil erosion, and provide other  
19 environmental benefits to the State; and

20 d. It is altogether fitting and proper for the Legislature to  
21 establish an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
22 Program” within the Department of Transportation, to encourage  
23 the preservation and repopulation of native plants and wildflowers  
24 along the roadsides of New Jersey.

25  
26 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
27 Legislature as this bill):

28 “Advisory Committee” means the Integrated Roadside  
29 Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee established  
30 by section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
31 Legislature as this bill).

32 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Transportation.

33 “Coordinator” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
34 Management Coordinator established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
35 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

36 “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

37 “Private entity” means any private individual, corporation,  
38 company, partnership, firm, association, owner, operator, non-profit  
39 organization, or community-based group, but shall not include, any  
40 municipal, county, or State agency or authority, or any agency,  
41 authority, or subdivision created by one or more municipal, county,  
42 or State government.

43 “Program” means the Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
44 Management Program established by section 3 of P.L. ,  
45 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1       3. a. There is established, within the Department of  
2 Transportation, an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
3 Program” to:

- 4       (1) Assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State;  
5       (2) Develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside  
6 vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and  
7 planting along roadsides, with emphasis on adaptable vegetation  
8 with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers;  
9       (3) Conduct research and feasibility studies for the  
10 comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and  
11 for future integrated roadside management projects;  
12       (4) Implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation  
13 management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a  
14 variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control,  
15 weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility  
16 easements;  
17       (5) Incorporate integrated roadside management best practices  
18 for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant  
19 species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
20 habitats;  
21       (6) Expand or create public education programs about the  
22 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the  
23 State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining  
24 roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals;  
25 and

26       (7) Coordinate with other private entities and government  
27 entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
28 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
29 governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the  
30 State.

31       b. The Commissioner of Transportation shall appoint an  
32 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
33 administer the program. The coordinator shall be responsible for  
34 implementing the program goals as established by subsection a. of  
35 this section.

36  
37       4. a. There is created, within the Department of  
38 Transportation, an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
39 Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the  
40 development and implementation of the program. The advisory  
41 committee shall consist of eight members as follows: five members  
42 of the public appointed by the Governor who shall include one  
43 member with background or experience in the protection,  
44 preservation, maintenance, or management of native animal,  
45 insects, or plant populations, one member with background or  
46 experience in the preservation of natural or scenic resources, one  
47 member with background or experience in landscaping, one  
48 member with background or experience in highway engineering,

1 and one member with background or experience in biodiversity,  
2 environmental engineering, or environmental science; the  
3 Commissioner of Transportation, or the Commissioner of  
4 Transportation's designee, who shall serve as an ex-officio voting  
5 member; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
6 Commissioner of Environmental Protection's designee, who shall  
7 serve as an ex-officio voting member; and the Integrated Roadside  
8 Vegetation Management Coordinator, who shall serve as a non-  
9 voting member and secretary to the advisory committee.

10 b. The public members shall serve for a term of three years  
11 from the date of their appointment and until their successors are  
12 appointed and qualified, except that of the members first appointed,  
13 three members shall serve for a term of three years and two  
14 members shall serve for a term of two years. Vacancies shall be  
15 filled for the balance of any unexpired term in the same manner as  
16 the original appointment was made. Public members of the  
17 advisory committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

18 c. The members of the advisory committee shall serve without  
19 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable  
20 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, within  
21 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this  
22 purpose.

23 d. The advisory committee shall select a chairperson and a  
24 vice-chairperson from among its public members, who shall each  
25 serve a one-year term but may be selected to serve successive  
26 terms. The advisory committee shall meet upon the call of the  
27 chairperson or a majority of its voting members. A majority of the  
28 voting members of the advisory committee shall constitute a  
29 quorum, and no action of the advisory committee shall be taken  
30 except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting  
31 members of the entire advisory committee.

32 e. The advisory committee activities shall include, but not be  
33 limited to:

34 (1) Studying and evaluating prevailing research related to  
35 biodiversity, climate control, invasive species control, native plant  
36 life cycles, soil erosion, and other environmental or roadside  
37 vegetation management related subjects;

38 (2) Securing funding for research, feasibility studies, and  
39 integrated roadside vegetation management projects;

40 (3) Establishing integrated roadside vegetation management best  
41 practices;

42 (4) Advising the department on the necessity of regulations or  
43 revisions to applicable department regulations that concern roadside  
44 vegetation management; and

45 (5) Developing strategies for educating public officials, owners  
46 of property adjacent to roadsides, and the general public on  
47 integrated roadside vegetation management best practices.

1 f. The advisory committee shall report annually on its  
2 activities to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature  
3 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

4  
5 5. A county or municipality may establish an integrated  
6 roadside vegetation management program, provided that the  
7 program established by the county or municipality is consistent with  
8 the program established pursuant section 3 of P.L. ,  
9 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

10  
11 6. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority may establish an  
12 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
13 the program established by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is  
14 consistent with the program established pursuant section 3 of  
15 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

16  
17 7. The South Jersey Transportation Authority may establish an  
18 integrated roadside vegetation management program, provided that  
19 the program established by the South Jersey Transportation  
20 Authority is consistent with the program established pursuant  
21 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
22 as this bill).

23  
24 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

25  
26  
27 STATEMENT

28  
29 The bill would establish, within the Department of Transportation  
30 (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program”  
31 (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the  
32 State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside  
33 vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and  
34 planting along roadsides, with emphasis on adaptable vegetation with  
35 long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers; (3) conduct  
36 research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated  
37 roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated  
38 roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive  
39 integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides  
40 in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate  
41 control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats,  
42 and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management  
43 best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive  
44 plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and  
45 habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the  
46 importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State,  
47 the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and  
48 other information consistent with the program goals; and (7)

**A3604 EUSTACE, WOLFE**

6

1 coordinate with other private entities and government entities,  
2 including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey  
3 Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments  
4 concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

5 Under the bill, the DOT Commissioner would appoint an  
6 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to  
7 implement the program's goals.

8 The bill also would establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation  
9 Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the  
10 development and implementation of the program. The advisory  
11 committee would consist of eight members as follows: five members  
12 appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience;  
13 the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the  
14 Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's  
15 designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management  
16 Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary  
17 to the advisory committee. The advisory committee would report  
18 annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its  
19 activities.

20 The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South  
21 Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal  
22 governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management  
23 programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the  
24 program established by this bill.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 3604**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: OCTOBER 13, 2016

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3604.

The bill, with committee amendments, would establish, within the Department of Transportation (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program” (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and planting along roadsides, with an emphasis on adaptable vegetation with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers and incorporating any requirements pursuant to any other law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting of native vegetation; (3) conduct research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals; and (7) coordinate with other private entities and government entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

Under the bill, the DOT Commissioner would appoint an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to implement the program’s goals.

The bill also would establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the

development and implementation of the program. As amended, the bill provides that the advisory committee would consist of 10 members as follows: six members appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience; the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee; the Secretary of Agriculture or the secretary's designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary to the advisory committee. The advisory committee would report annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its activities.

The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the program established by this bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. S724 (1R) as also amended and reported by the committee.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments to the bill:

(1) require the integrated roadside vegetation management plan to incorporate any requirements pursuant to any other law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting of native vegetation; and

(2) increase the membership of the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee from eight to 10 members by adding a State-licensed landscape architect to the public members appointed by the Governor, and the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee, who would serve ex-officio.



# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3604**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3604 (1R).

This bill establishes within the Department of Transportation (DOT), an “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program” (program) to: (1) assess the conditions existing along roadsides in the State; (2) develop and adopt a comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan for cost effective maintenance and planting along roadsides, with an emphasis on adaptable vegetation with long life cycles, native vegetation, and wildflowers and incorporating any requirements pursuant to any other law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, concerning the planting of native vegetation; (3) conduct research and feasibility studies for the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan and for future integrated roadside management projects; (4) implement the comprehensive integrated roadside vegetation management plan to improve roadsides in a way that will serve a variety of purposes, including climate control, erosion control, weed control, scenic quality, wildlife habitats, and utility easements; (5) incorporate integrated roadside management best practices for the long-term control of damaging insects, invasive plant species, and weeds while preserving valuable vegetation and habitats; (6) expand or create public education programs about the importance of integrated roadside vegetation management in the State, the scenic and environmental value of land adjoining roadsides, and other information consistent with the program goals; and (7) coordinate with other private entities and government entities, including the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments concerning initiatives to improve roadsides in the State.

The bill requires that the DOT Commissioner appoint an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator to implement the program’s goals.

The bill also establishes an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee to provide advice on the development and implementation of the program. The bill provides

that the advisory committee consist of 10 members as follows: six members appointed by the Governor with relevant background or experience; the DOT Commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee; the Secretary of Agriculture or the secretary's designee; and the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Coordinator, who would serve as a non-voting member and secretary to the advisory committee. The bill provides that the advisory committee report annually to the DOT, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its activities.

The bill permits the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, and county and municipal governments to establish integrated roadside vegetation management programs, provided that those programs are consistent with the program established by this bill.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 724 (2R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

[Home](#) [Newsroom](#) [Media](#) [Administration](#) [NJ's Priorities](#) [Contact Us](#)
[Press Releases](#) [Public Addresses](#) [Executive Orders](#) [Press Kit](#) [Reports](#)
[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2017

## Governor Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Monday, May 1, 2017

Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)
**Stay Connected**  
with Social Media

**Stay Connected**  
with Email Alerts

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

**Trenton, NJ** - Governor Chris Christie signed into law today several bills to empower New Jersey's military members and veterans, including a bipartisan initiative to create the "Veterans Diversion Program."

The new law, S-307/A-4362 (Van Drew, Allen/Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Land, Tucker, Benson, Bramnick), requires the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to collaborate with its federal counterpart and develop a statewide program providing appropriate case management and mental health services to eligible military service members who have committed nonviolent offenses. The department will publicize a directory of existing federal and State case management and mental health program locations, which will serve as points of entry to facilitate support and services.

"It is impossible to imagine the courage, sacrifices and experiences of the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect the American people and our freedom," Governor Christie said. "This critical legislation gives back by supporting New Jersey's military service members when they need it most and when their lives depend on it. This new program will strengthen families and communities, by empowering veterans with individualized, holistic care and steering them clear of the criminal justice system."

Other military and veterans' bills signed by Governor Christie today require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) to develop an informational website for Gold Star families; require DMAVA to notify local county veterans' affairs offices and State veterans service offices of the death of a New Jersey or other service member whose surviving beneficiary resides in the State in order to inform the beneficiaries of federal and state benefits and creates a designated Gold Star family member liaison for each county veterans' office; and, retains eligibility for New Jersey National Guard members or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces called to active federal military service who met maximum age requirements at the closing date of civil service examinations.

**Governor Christie also took action on the following bills:**

### BILL SIGNINGS:

**S-158/A-3631 (Madden, Cruz-Perez/Quijano, Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Zwicker, Mukherji, Danielsen)** - Permits holding companies of eligible New Jersey emerging technology companies to receive investments under "New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act"

**S-227/A-963 (Holzapfel, Allen/Wolfe, McGuckin, Dancer)** - Requires DOT, NJTA, and SJTA to use only native vegetation for landscaping, land management, reforestation, or habitat restoration

**S-518/A-4452 (Beck/Downey, Houghtaling, Benson, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttle)** - Requires sanitation vehicles display flashing lights in certain circumstances and imposes conditions on drivers approaching sanitation vehicles displaying flashing lights; designated as "Michael Massey's Law"

**S-724/A-3604 (Cruz-Perez, Allen/Eustace, Wolfe, Mukherji)** - Establishes "Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program"

**S-792/A-1271 (Sarlo/ Caride, Schaer, Pintor Marin)** - Permits newly created regional school districts or enlarging regional school districts to determine apportionment methodology for their boards of education on basis other than population

**S-913/A-3404 (Codey, Vitale/Burzichelli, Coughlin, Schaer, Singleton)** - Permits hospitals to establish system for making performance-based incentive payments to physicians

**S-1059/A-4462 (Diegnan/Lagana, Vainieri Huttie, Mukherji)** - Permits amusement games license to be issued to holder of alcoholic beverage special concessionaire permit at certain airports; allows licensees to offer electronic amusements under certain circumstances

**S-1398/A-1447 (Weinberg, Gill/Lampitt, Spencer, Vainieri Huttie, McKeon, Mukherji, Holley, Caride, Downey)** - Expands infertility coverage under certain health insurance plans

**S-1404/A-4423 (Weinberg/Johnson, Benson, Mukherji, Handlin)** - Requires governmental affairs agents to disclose on notice of representation form compensation amount received from State or local government entities; requires notice to be posted on Internet site of Election Law Enforcement Commission

**S-1475/A-3304 (Ruiz, Vitale/Vainieri Huttie, Mukherji, Holley, Jimenez)** - Establishes three-year Medicaid home visitation demonstration project

**S-1634/A-3991 (Turner, Stack/Muoio, Wimberly, Johnson, Pintor Marin, Mukherji)** - Requires housing authority to advertise when applications are being accepted for housing assistance waiting lists online

**S-1761/A-4473 (Rice, Cunningham, Pou/Johnson, Wimberly, Pintor Marin)** - Directs Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development to promote basic skills training through organizations dedicated to the economic empowerment of specific segments of society, such as the African American Chamber of Commerce

**S-1825/A-3432 (Sarlo, Cruz-Perez, Gordon/Greenwald, Lampitt, Benson, Caride, Chiaravalloti)** - Establishes task force to study and make recommendations concerning mobility and support services needs of NJ adults with autism spectrum disorder

**S-1856/A-3846 (Pou, Allen/Phoebus, Tucker, Space)** - Provides for retained eligibility for members of NJ National Guard or reserve component of US Armed Forces called to active federal military service who met maximum age requirement at closing date of civil service examination

**S-2286/A-3083 (Weinberg, Gordon/Vainieri Huttie, Eustace, Johnson)** - Establishes Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force to assess needs of persons with aphasia, and their families, and ensure adequate provision of support services and information thereto

**S-2414/A-4056 (Scutari/Jimenez, Eustace, Giblin, McKnight)** - Requires "Massage and Bodywork Therapist Licensing Act" to require certain class study and examination requirements

**S-2856/A-4402 (Beach, Madden/Greenwald, Andrzejczak, Johnson, Rible, Jones, Land, Houghtaling, Benson)** - Requires DMVA to notify county veterans' affairs office of death of certain military service members; requires office to have Gold Star liaisons

**S-2857/A-4403 (Beach, Madden/Greenwald, Rible, Land, Johnson, Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Houghtaling, Benson)** - Requires Adjutant General to create informational webpage for Gold Star families

**S-2868/A-4501 (Pou, Sarlo/Sumter, Wimberly)** - Increases value of Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant program residential tax credits to \$823 million; restricts \$105 million of tax credits to qualified residential projects and mixed use parking projects

**S-3015/A-4623 (Rice, Ruiz/Sumter, Oliver, Schaer, Pintor Marin)** - Requires study of program allowing community service in lieu of paying motor vehicle surcharges

**SJR-49/AJR-106 (Ruiz, Oroho/Phoebus, Pintor Marin, Space, McKnight, Schepisi)** - Designates third week in September of each year as Go Gold for Kids with Cancer Awareness Week"

**SJR-75/AJR- 122 (Rice, Codey/Oliver, Giblin, Chiaravalloti, Sumter, Quijano, McKnight)** - Establishes "Disparity in State Procurement Study Commission"

#### **BILLS VETOED:**

**S-596/A-3422 (Cunningham, Greenstein, Sweeney/Benson, Mukherji, Muoio, Holley, Sumter, Downey, Lampitt, Oliver, Danielsen, Wimberly)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes compensation program for law enforcement officers and certain other employees injured while performing official duties

**S-690/A-2921 (Gordon, Beach, Eustace, Houghtaling, Pinkin, Mazzeo)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Increases flexibility, clarity, and available tools of optional municipal consolidation process

**SCS for S-895/ACS for A-2182 (Lesniak, Beck, Cunningham/Sumter, Holley, Oliver, Jones, Wimberly)** - **CONDITIONAL** - "Earn Your Way Out Act"; requires DOC to develop inmate reentry plan; establishes administrative parole release for certain inmates; requires study and report by DOC on fiscal impact

**S-956/A-2202 (Gordon, Bateman/Eustace, Zwicker, O'Scanlon, Downey, Wisniewski, Pinkin)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Authorizes special emergency appropriations for the payment of certain expenses incurred by municipalities to implement a municipal consolidation

**S-2844/A-4425 (Vitale, Codey/Vainieri Huttie, Muoio, Eustace, Space, Benson)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Eliminates certificate of need requirement for inpatient hospital beds for treatment of psychiatric and substance use disorder dual

diagnosis

**S-3041/ACS for A-2338 (Lesniak/Benson, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Gusciora, Mukherji, Jimenez) -  
CONDITIONAL** - Revises "Pet Purchase Protection Act" to establish new requirements for pet dealers and pet shops

**S-3048/A-4520 (Weinberg, Turner, Greenstein/McKeon, Singleton, Moriarty, Quijano, Johnson, Benson) -  
CONDITIONAL** - Requires candidates for President and Vice-President of United States to disclose federal income tax returns to appear on ballot; prohibits Electoral College electors from voting for candidates who fail to file income tax returns

###

**Press Contact:**  
Brian Murray  
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)  
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000