

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: Yes

"Bill for local news pilot program enacted, but funds lacking," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, August 24, 2018

"Bill for local news pilot program enacted, but funds lacking," The Jersey Journal, August 25, 2018

"Murphy signs law aiming to increase local news coverage," South Jersey Times, August 26, 2018

"Money lacking for newly signed local media bill, Gov. Murphy says," NJBIZ, August 27, 2018

"New NJ law allows insiders to grab a larger share of concert, sports tickets," northjersey.com, August 24, 2018

"CONCERT, SPORTS TICKETS COULD COST MORE - MURPHY SIGNS MEASURE LIMITING SALES TO PUBLIC," The Record, August 25, 2018

RH/CL

P.L. 2018, CHAPTER 111, *approved August 24, 2018*
Assembly, No. 3628 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Civic Information
2 Consortium¹**[,]** and¹ supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes¹**[, and making an appropriation]**¹.
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. The people of New Jersey need accurate, relevant, timely,
10 and trustworthy news and information to be civically engaged,
11 make informed voting decisions, and work toward common
12 solutions in their communities.
13 b. News media operations in the State have endured major
14 cutbacks in recent years, resulting in less coverage of important
15 State matters. These cutbacks not only hurt the news media's
16 financial health, but also harm communities by reducing the news
17 and civic information to which residents have access.
18 c. This situation has resulted in the need to authorize the
19 establishment of, and to fund, the New Jersey Civic Information
20 Consortium (consortium), a consortium of five State public
21 universities, to advance research and innovation in the field of
22 media and technology to better inform the State's communities to
23 benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs.
24 d. By leveraging the resources, knowledge, and expertise of the
25 State's public universities through a partnership with The College
26 of New Jersey, Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute
27 of Technology, Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State
28 University, the consortium could bolster public-interest journalism,
29 civic information, and media innovation.
30 e. The consortium would provide grants that support news and
31 information that benefit the State's civic life and meet the evolving
32 information needs of New Jersey's underserved communities.
33 f. Investments from the consortium, supporting the State's
34 academia, media, innovation, and community service sectors, could
35 advance these goals while ensuring financial sustainability,
36 accountability, and lasting public faith in both the consortium and
37 the work it supports.

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:

¹Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 18, 2018.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 25, 2018.

1 g. It is therefore necessary and in the public interest to
2 establish the consortium and provide a funding source for the
3 awarding of grants to organizations working to meet these goals.

4
5 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
6 Legislature as this bill):

7 “Board of directors” or “board” means the board of directors of
8 the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium established pursuant
9 of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
10 Legislature as this bill).

11 “Consortium” means the New Jersey Civic Information
12 Consortium established pursuant to section 3 of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

14 “In-kind contribution” means a contribution of goods or services,
15 other than a cash grant.

16 “Local community organization” means a locally-based
17 organization serving a community of people having shared interests
18 that is incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to
19 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of
20 the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3).

21 “Member university” means The College of New Jersey,
22 Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology,
23 Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State University.

24
25 3. a. There is established the New Jersey Civic Information
26 Consortium which shall consist of the following member
27 universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State
28 University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan
29 University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the
30 consortium shall be to advance research and innovation in the field
31 of media and technology to benefit the State’s civic life and
32 evolving information needs.

33 b. The consortium shall be established as a nonprofit
34 corporation that is an educational and charitable corporation validly
35 existing and in good standing under the "New Jersey Nonprofit
36 Corporation Act," P.L.1983, c.127 (N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq.), is
37 incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to
38 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of
39 the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3), and
40 structured as a supporting organization to its member universities in
41 a manner that the Internal Revenue Service would deem the
42 consortium to be a public charity, and shall be subject to all
43 applicable State laws governing nonprofit corporations. The
44 consortium shall be accountable and subject to the same federal
45 Internal Revenue Code disclosure requirements of any nonprofit
46 organization pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s.6033, such as making public
47 its Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and filing a copy of that

1 form and a copy of its annual financial report and audited financial
2 reports with the Attorney General.

3

4 4. a. The consortium shall have a board of directors that shall
5 set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium's grant-
6 making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants pursuant
7 to section 7 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
8 as this bill).

9 b. The board of directors shall consist of ¹~~13~~ ¹⁵ members
10 as follows:

11 (1) two members appointed by the Governor ²who shall not be of
12 the same political party²;

13 (2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate ¹, and
14 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate¹ ;

15 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
16 Assembly ¹, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
17 General Assembly¹ ;

18 (4) five members ², no more than three of whom shall be of the
19 same political party², appointed by the president of each member
20 university, each of whom shall have background or experience in
21 the field of journalism, media, or technology; and

22 (5) four members ², no more than two of whom shall be of the
23 same political party², appointed by a majority vote of the nine board
24 members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) of this
25 subsection, of which: (a) one member shall represent the media
26 sector; (b) one member shall represent the technology sector; and
27 (c) two members, not employed by the State or a member university
28 at the time of the member's appointment, shall have demonstrated a
29 record of commitment to public service and understand the
30 importance of media and technology to the State's future.

31 ²¹Appointments to the board shall be made in such manner so that
32 no more than eight members shall be of the same political party.¹²

33 c. Each board member shall serve a term of four years, except
34 that the member representing the New Jersey media sector shall
35 serve an initial term of one year and the member representing the
36 New Jersey technology sector shall serve an initial term of two
37 years. No board member shall serve more than two four-year terms.
38 In the appointment of members to the board, every effort shall be
39 made to strive for diversity and balance of representation according
40 to gender, race, ethnicity, and geography within any limits allowed
41 under law. Any vacancies in the appointed membership of the
42 board occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in
43 the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired
44 term only. Board members shall serve without compensation but
45 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
46 performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to
47 the board.

1 5. a. The board shall appoint and employ an executive
2 director, and fix the executive director's compensation and
3 conditions of employment. The executive director shall be the chief
4 executive, administrative, and operational officer of the consortium
5 and shall direct and supervise the administrative affairs and the
6 general management of the consortium. The executive director
7 shall oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations, which
8 includes working with the board to meet the consortium's goals and
9 grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program officers
10 and administrative staff pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
11 acting as spokesperson for the consortium's work, and raising funds
12 from external sources. The executive director shall attend all
13 meetings of the board.

14 b. (1) The executive director shall employ program officers
15 who shall be experienced practitioners with a strong understanding
16 of the media or civic technology fields. The executive director shall
17 strive to appoint program officers that represent the State's racial,
18 ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity within any limits allowed
19 under law. The program officers shall manage the grant-making
20 process, in accordance with the consortium's goals. The grant-
21 making process shall include soliciting, recommending, and
22 processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work
23 on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and
24 evaluation efforts.

25 (2) The executive director shall employ no more than three
26 administrative staff to provide operational support for the
27 consortium, including office management, support for the executive
28 director and program officers, coordination among member
29 universities, payment to grantees, human resources, and logistics.

30 c. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing administrative
31 costs, one member university shall be responsible for housing the
32 consortium and providing back-office support.

33

34 6. The consortium shall be a collaborative effort among the
35 member universities. Each member university shall focus its
36 initiatives on one area of expertise and the board of directors shall
37 decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to
38 allow for greater collaboration among member universities,
39 decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts.
40 Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well
41 as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking
42 grants.

43

44 7. a. To be eligible for a grant from the consortium, a grant
45 proposal application shall include, but not be limited to:

46 (1) evidence of a collaboration between at least one member of
47 the faculty or graduate student of a member university and at least

1 one local community organization, media organization, or
2 technology-based organization;

3 (2) information demonstrating that the collaboration would be a
4 mutually respectful partnership wherein all community and member
5 university participants invest in a project designed to serve the
6 consortium's mission and the goals cited pursuant to subsection b.
7 of this section; and

8 (3) proof that the member university or universities in total will
9 provide an amount of funding or make an in-kind contribution
10 having a value that matches 10 percent of the amount of grant
11 funding for which the applicant has applied, if an application is
12 sponsored by one or more member universities. For a grant
13 proposal application sponsored by a member university housing the
14 consortium and providing back-office support pursuant to
15 subsection c. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
16 the Legislature as this bill), the cost of that housing and support to
17 that member university shall count towards the funding or in-kind
18 contribution match from that member university.

19 b. The consortium shall provide grants for projects that achieve
20 the following goals:

21 (1) improve the quantity and quality of civic information in New
22 Jersey communities;

23 (2) give residents enhanced access to useful government data
24 and public information through innovative applications, platforms,
25 and technologies;

26 (3) train students, professionals, and community members in the
27 practice of community storytelling, journalism, and media
28 production;

29 (4) nurture better civic engagement and dialogue inside and
30 between New Jersey communities;

31 (5) better meet the information needs of low-income
32 communities and racial and ethnic communities that have been
33 underserved by the media; and

34 (6) invest in research and practices that can help media outlets
35 become more closely connected to their audiences and more
36 sustainable without government support.

37

38 8. A grant issued by the consortium shall be in the form of a
39 grant agreement. A grant agreement shall include a provision
40 establishing a set of metrics for assessing the goals contained in the
41 agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee project on how well
42 those metrics are being met and any other relevant accountability
43 measures. The set of metrics shall be established by the board in
44 conjunction with the executive director and program officers. The
45 agreement shall include the expectations stated between the
46 consortium and the grantee, which shall include, but not be limited
47 to, a statement that:

1 a. the grantee shall be independent from the influence of the
2 State, a member university, and any other grantor or contributor of
3 funds or outside source; and

4 b. any grantor or other contributor of funds to the grantee shall
5 acknowledge in writing the grantor's or contributor's understanding
6 that the grant or donation does not entitle the grantor or contributor
7 to dictate or influence the content of any work the grantee produces
8 or may produce.

9
10 9. a. The consortium shall annually report to the Governor
11 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
12 Legislature, on the activities of the consortium and make the report
13 available on the consortium's Internet website. The report shall
14 include, but not be limited to:

- 15 (1) a list of all grant applicants and approved grant applicants;
16 (2) the grant amounts of approved grant applicants;
17 (3) the amount of matching funds and types of in-kind
18 contributions provided to approved grant applicants; and
19 (4) a status report on the activities funded by an approved grant
20 applicant.

21 b. The consortium shall make available on its Internet website
22 its grant-making criteria and other relevant documents.

23 c. The board, in conjunction with the executive director and
24 program officers, shall hold one public hearing annually in the
25 northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The public
26 hearings shall provide a forum for the board to report on how the
27 public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to gather
28 public input on what the consortium's mission should be and
29 whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input shall be
30 used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and
31 process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

32
33 ¹【10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the New
34 Jersey Civic Information Consortium, established pursuant to
35 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
36 as this bill), \$20,000,000 in the first fiscal year in which the bill is
37 enacted and an additional \$1,000,000 annually thereafter, to
38 effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
39 Legislature as this bill).】¹

40
41 ¹【11.】 10.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

42
43
44
45
46 Establishes New Jersey Civic Information Consortium.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3628

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 12, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

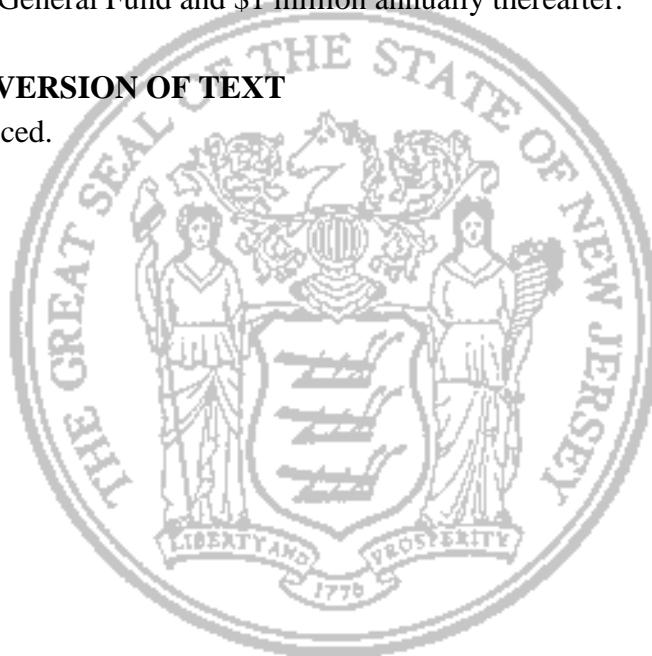
**Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywoman Vainieri
Huttle, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman
Barclay, Assemblywoman Jones, Assemblymen Mukherji, Zwicker and
Holley**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Civic Information Consortium; appropriates \$20 million from General Fund and \$1 million annually thereafter.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2018)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium,
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making
3 an appropriation.

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. The people of New Jersey need accurate, relevant, timely,
10 and trustworthy news and information to be civically engaged,
11 make informed voting decisions, and work toward common
12 solutions in their communities.

13 b. News media operations in the State have endured major
14 cutbacks in recent years, resulting in less coverage of important
15 State matters. These cutbacks not only hurt the news media's
16 financial health, but also harm communities by reducing the news
17 and civic information to which residents have access.

18 c. This situation has resulted in the need to authorize the
19 establishment of, and to fund, the New Jersey Civic Information
20 Consortium (consortium), a consortium of five State public
21 universities, to advance research and innovation in the field of
22 media and technology to better inform the State's communities to
23 benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs.

24 d. By leveraging the resources, knowledge, and expertise of the
25 State's public universities through a partnership with The College
26 of New Jersey, Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute
27 of Technology, Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State
28 University, the consortium could bolster public-interest journalism,
29 civic information, and media innovation.

30 e. The consortium would provide grants that support news and
31 information that benefit the State's civic life and meet the evolving
32 information needs of New Jersey's underserved communities.

33 f. Investments from the consortium, supporting the State's
34 academia, media, innovation, and community service sectors, could
35 advance these goals while ensuring financial sustainability,
36 accountability, and lasting public faith in both the consortium and
37 the work it supports.

38 g. It is therefore necessary and in the public interest to
39 establish the consortium and provide a funding source for the
40 awarding of grants to organizations working to meet these goals.

41
42 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
43 Legislature as this bill):

44 "Board of directors" or "board" means the board of directors of
45 the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium established pursuant
46 of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
47 Legislature as this bill).

1 “Consortium” means the New Jersey Civic Information
2 Consortium established pursuant to section 3 of
3 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4 “In-kind contribution” means a contribution of goods or services,
5 other than a cash grant.

6 “Local community organization” means a locally-based
7 organization serving a community of people having shared interests
8 that is incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to
9 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of
10 the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3).

11 “Member university” means The College of New Jersey,
12 Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology,
13 Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State University.

14

15 3. a. There is established the New Jersey Civic Information
16 Consortium which shall consist of the following member
17 universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State
18 University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan
19 University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the
20 consortium shall be to advance research and innovation in the field
21 of media and technology to benefit the State’s civic life and
22 evolving information needs.

23 b. The consortium shall be established as a nonprofit
24 corporation that is an educational and charitable corporation validly
25 existing and in good standing under the "New Jersey Nonprofit
26 Corporation Act," P.L.1983, c.127 (N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq.), is
27 incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to
28 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of
29 the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3), and
30 structured as a supporting organization to its member universities in
31 a manner that the Internal Revenue Service would deem the
32 consortium to be a public charity, and shall be subject to all
33 applicable State laws governing nonprofit corporations. The
34 consortium shall be accountable and subject to the same federal
35 Internal Revenue Code disclosure requirements of any nonprofit
36 organization pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s.6033, such as making public
37 its Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and filing a copy of that
38 form and a copy of its annual financial report and audited financial
39 reports with the Attorney General.

40

41 4. a. The consortium shall have a board of directors that shall
42 set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium’s grant-
43 making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants pursuant
44 to section 7 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
45 as this bill).

46 b. The board of directors shall consist of 13 members as
47 follows:

48 (1) two members appointed by the Governor;

1 (2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

2 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
3 Assembly;

4 (4) five members appointed by the president of each member
5 university, each of whom shall have background or experience in
6 the field of journalism, media, or technology; and

7 (5) four members, appointed by a majority vote of the nine
8 board members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) of
9 this subsection, of which: (a) one member shall represent the media
10 sector; (b) one member shall represent the technology sector; and
11 (c) two members, not employed by the State or a member university
12 at the time of the member's appointment, shall have demonstrated a
13 record of commitment to public service and understand the
14 importance of media and technology to the State's future.

15 c. Each board member shall serve a term of four years, except
16 that the member representing the New Jersey media sector shall
17 serve an initial term of one year and the member representing the
18 New Jersey technology sector shall serve an initial term of two
19 years. No board member shall serve more than two four-year terms.
20 In the appointment of members to the board, every effort shall be
21 made to strive for diversity and balance of representation according
22 to gender, race, ethnicity, and geography within any limits allowed
23 under law. Any vacancies in the appointed membership of the
24 board occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in
25 the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired
26 term only. Board members shall serve without compensation but
27 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
28 performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to
29 the board.

30
31 5. a. The board shall appoint and employ an executive
32 director, and fix the executive director's compensation and
33 conditions of employment. The executive director shall be the chief
34 executive, administrative, and operational officer of the consortium
35 and shall direct and supervise the administrative affairs and the
36 general management of the consortium. The executive director
37 shall oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations, which
38 includes working with the board to meet the consortium's goals and
39 grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program officers
40 and administrative staff pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
41 acting as spokesperson for the consortium's work, and raising funds
42 from external sources. The executive director shall attend all
43 meetings of the board.

44 b. (1) The executive director shall employ program officers
45 who shall be experienced practitioners with a strong understanding
46 of the media or civic technology fields. The executive director shall
47 strive to appoint program officers that represent the State's racial,
48 ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity within any limits allowed

1 under law. The program officers shall manage the grant-making
2 process, in accordance with the consortium's goals. The grant-
3 making process shall include soliciting, recommending, and
4 processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work
5 on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and
6 evaluation efforts.

7 (2) The executive director shall employ no more than three
8 administrative staff to provide operational support for the
9 consortium, including office management, support for the executive
10 director and program officers, coordination among member
11 universities, payment to grantees, human resources, and logistics.

12 c. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing administrative
13 costs, one member university shall be responsible for housing the
14 consortium and providing back-office support.

15

16 6. The consortium shall be a collaborative effort among the
17 member universities. Each member university shall focus its
18 initiatives on one area of expertise and the board of directors shall
19 decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to
20 allow for greater collaboration among member universities,
21 decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts.
22 Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well
23 as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking
24 grants.

25

26 7. a. To be eligible for a grant from the consortium, a grant
27 proposal application shall include, but not be limited to:

28 (1) evidence of a collaboration between at least one member of
29 the faculty or graduate student of a member university and at least
30 one local community organization, media organization, or
31 technology-based organization;

32 (2) information demonstrating that the collaboration would be a
33 mutually respectful partnership wherein all community and member
34 university participants invest in a project designed to serve the
35 consortium's mission and the goals cited pursuant to subsection b.
36 of this section; and

37 (3) proof that the member university or universities in total will
38 provide an amount of funding or make an in-kind contribution
39 having a value that matches 10 percent of the amount of grant
40 funding for which the applicant has applied, if an application is
41 sponsored by one or more member universities. For a grant
42 proposal application sponsored by a member university housing the
43 consortium and providing back-office support pursuant to
44 subsection c. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
45 the Legislature as this bill), the cost of that housing and support to
46 that member university shall count towards the funding or in-kind
47 contribution match from that member university.

1 b. The consortium shall provide grants for projects that achieve
2 the following goals:

3 (1) improve the quantity and quality of civic information in New
4 Jersey communities;

5 (2) give residents enhanced access to useful government data
6 and public information through innovative applications, platforms,
7 and technologies;

8 (3) train students, professionals, and community members in the
9 practice of community storytelling, journalism, and media
10 production;

11 (4) nurture better civic engagement and dialogue inside and
12 between New Jersey communities;

13 (5) better meet the information needs of low-income
14 communities and racial and ethnic communities that have been
15 underserved by the media; and

16 (6) invest in research and practices that can help media outlets
17 become more closely connected to their audiences and more
18 sustainable without government support.

19

20 8. A grant issued by the consortium shall be in the form of a
21 grant agreement. A grant agreement shall include a provision
22 establishing a set of metrics for assessing the goals contained in the
23 agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee project on how well
24 those metrics are being met and any other relevant accountability
25 measures. The set of metrics shall be established by the board in
26 conjunction with the executive director and program officers. The
27 agreement shall include the expectations stated between the
28 consortium and the grantee, which shall include, but not be limited
29 to, a statement that:

30 a. the grantee shall be independent from the influence of the
31 State, a member university, and any other grantor or contributor of
32 funds or outside source; and

33 b. any grantor or other contributor of funds to the grantee shall
34 acknowledge in writing the grantor's or contributor's understanding
35 that the grant or donation does not entitle the grantor or contributor
36 to dictate or influence the content of any work the grantee produces
37 or may produce.

38

39 9. a. The consortium shall annually report to the Governor
40 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
41 Legislature, on the activities of the consortium and make the report
42 available on the consortium's Internet website. The report shall
43 include, but not be limited to:

44 (1) a list of all grant applicants and approved grant applicants;

45 (2) the grant amounts of approved grant applicants;

46 (3) the amount of matching funds and types of in-kind
47 contributions provided to approved grant applicants; and

1 (4) a status report on the activities funded by an approved grant
2 applicant.

3 b. The consortium shall make available on its Internet website
4 its grant-making criteria and other relevant documents.

5 c. The board, in conjunction with the executive director and
6 program officers, shall hold one public hearing annually in the
7 northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The public
8 hearings shall provide a forum for the board to report on how the
9 public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to gather
10 public input on what the consortium's mission should be and
11 whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input shall be
12 used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and
13 process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

14

15 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the New
16 Jersey Civic Information Consortium, established pursuant to
17 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
18 as this bill), \$20,000,000 in the first fiscal year in which the bill is
19 enacted and an additional \$1,000,000 annually thereafter, to
20 effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
21 Legislature as this bill).

22

23 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill establishes the New Jersey Civic Information
29 Consortium (consortium), which is to consist of the following
30 member universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State
31 University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan
32 University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the
33 consortium is to advance research and innovation in the field of
34 media and technology to benefit the State's civic life and evolving
35 information needs. The consortium is to be established as a
36 nonprofit corporation that is an educational and charitable
37 corporation incorporated, organized, and operated under section
38 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and structured as a
39 supporting organization to its member universities in a manner that
40 the Internal Revenue Service would deem the consortium to be a
41 public charity.

42 The consortium is to have a board of directors (board) that is to
43 set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium's grant-
44 making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants. The
45 board is to consist of 13 members as follows: two members
46 appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the President
47 of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
48 Assembly; five members appointed by the president of each

1 member university, each are to have background or experience in
2 the field of journalism, media, or technology; and four members,
3 appointed by a majority vote of the other nine appointed board
4 members, of which one member is to represent the media sector,
5 one member is to represent the technology sector, and two
6 members, not employed by the State or a member university at the
7 time of the member's appointment, are to have demonstrated a
8 record of commitment to public service and understand the
9 importance of media and technology to the State's future.

10 The board is to appoint and employ an executive director who is
11 to be the chief executive, administrative, and operational officer of
12 the consortium and oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations,
13 which includes working with the board to meet the consortium's
14 goals and grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program
15 officers and a limited number of administrative staff. The executive
16 director is to employ program officers who are to manage the grant-
17 making process, which is to include soliciting, recommending, and
18 processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work
19 on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and
20 evaluation efforts. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing
21 administrative costs, one member university is to be responsible for
22 housing the consortium and providing back-office support.

23 The bill requires the consortium to be a collaborative effort
24 among the member universities. Each member university is to
25 focus its initiatives on one area of expertise and the board is to
26 decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to
27 allow for greater collaboration among member universities,
28 decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts.
29 Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well
30 as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking
31 grants.

32 A grant application is to contain certain criteria as stated in the
33 bill. The consortium is to provide grants only for projects that
34 achieve the goals expressed in the bill. A grant issued by the
35 consortium is to be in the form of a grant agreement that is to
36 include a provision establishing a set of metrics for assessing the
37 goals contained in the agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee
38 project on how well those metrics are being met and any other
39 relevant accountability measures.

40 The bill requires the consortium to report annually to the
41 Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the consortium and
42 make the report available on the consortium's Internet website. The
43 report is to include, but not be limited to: 1) a list of all grant
44 applicants and approved grant applicants; 2) the grant amounts of
45 approved grant applicants; 3) the amount of matching funds and
46 types of in-kind contributions provided to approved grant
47 applicants; and 4) a status report on the activities funded by an
48 approved grant applicant. The consortium is to make available on

A3628 GREENWALD, MORIARTY

1 its Internet website its grant-making criteria and other relevant
2 documents.

3 The bill requires the board, in conjunction with the executive
4 director and program officers, to hold one public hearing annually
5 in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The
6 public hearings are to provide a forum for the board to report on
7 how the public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to
8 gather public input on what the consortium's mission should be and
9 whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input is to be
10 used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and
11 process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

12 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the consortium
13 \$20,000,000 in the fiscal year the bill becomes law, and \$1,000,000
14 annually thereafter, to provide start-up cost funding for consortium
15 operations, grant-making, and to otherwise carry out the purposes of
16 the bill.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3628

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2018

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably and with amendments Assembly Bill No. 3628.

As amended, this bill establishes the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium which is to consist of the following member universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the consortium is to advance research and innovation in the field of media and technology to benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs. The consortium is to be established as a nonprofit corporation that is an educational and charitable corporation incorporated, organized, and operated under section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and structured as a supporting organization to its member universities in a manner that the Internal Revenue Service would deem the consortium to be a public charity.

The consortium is to have a board of directors that is to set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium's grant-making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants. The board is to consist of 13 members as follows: two members appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; five members appointed by the president of each member university, each of whom are to have background or experience in the field of journalism, media, or technology; and four members, appointed by a majority vote of the other nine appointed board members, of which one member is to represent the media sector, one member is to represent the technology sector, and two members, not employed by the State or a member university at the time of the member's appointment, are to have demonstrated a record of commitment to public service and understand the importance of media and technology to the State's future.

The board is to appoint and employ an executive director who is to be the chief executive, administrative, and operational officer of the consortium and oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations, which includes working with the board to meet the consortium's

goals and grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program officers and a limited number of administrative staff. The executive director is to employ program officers who are to manage the grant-making process, which is to include soliciting, recommending, and processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and evaluation efforts. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing administrative costs, one member university is to be responsible for housing the consortium and providing back-office support.

The bill requires the consortium to be a collaborative effort among the member universities. Each member university is to focus its initiatives on one area of expertise and the board is to decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to allow for greater collaboration among member universities, decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts. Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking grants.

A grant application is to contain certain criteria as stated in the bill. The consortium is to provide grants only for projects that achieve the goals expressed in the bill. A grant issued by the consortium is to be in the form of a grant agreement that is to include a provision establishing a set of metrics for assessing the goals contained in the agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee project on how well those metrics are being met and any other relevant accountability measures.

The bill requires the consortium to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the consortium and make the report available on the consortium's Internet website. The report is to include, but not be limited to: 1) a list of all grant applicants and approved grant applicants; 2) the grant amounts of approved grant applicants; 3) the amount of matching funds and types of in-kind contributions provided to approved grant applicants; and 4) a status report on the activities funded by an approved grant applicant. The consortium is to make available on its Internet website its grant-making criteria and other relevant documents.

The bill requires the board, in conjunction with the executive director and program officers, to hold one public hearing annually in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The public hearings are to provide a forum for the board to report on how the public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to gather public input on what the consortium's mission should be and whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input is to be used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments remove the appropriation from the bill and add two additional members to the board of directors.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that the bill will increase annual expenditures of the five public institutions of higher education that are the members of the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium. The OLS cannot determine the amount of the consortium's annual operating expenditures, given that they depend on operating decisions by the consortium and its members. The expenses of the consortium will be reduced to the extent that it will be able to draw on existing resources of the member institutions.

It is not clear to what degree expenditures by the member institutions related to the operation of the consortium represent costs attributable to the bill or costs that the member institutions would have incurred even if the consortium did not exist.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 3628

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator T. KEAN)

ADOPTED: JUNE 25, 2018

These amendments require that: the Governor's two appointments not be of the same political party; no more than three of the five members appointed by the presidents of member institutions of higher education be of the same political party; and no more than two of the four members appointed by the other board members be of the same political party.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3628

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 2, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes New Jersey Civic Information Consortium.
- Types of Impact:** Annual expenditure increases and potential annual revenue gains to certain public institutions of higher education.
- Agencies Affected:** The College of New Jersey; Montclair State University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan University; and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Annual Expenditure Increase to Public Institutions of Higher Education	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Potential Annual Revenue Increase to Public Institutions of Higher Education	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that the bill will produce an indeterminate increase in the annual expenditures of the public institutions of higher education that will be members of the non-profit New Jersey Civic Information Consortium.
- Expenditures include space and back office support donated to the consortium and any matching assistance provided by the member institutions in support of grant applications to the consortium. Member institutions may also provide additional operating support to the consortium in any given fiscal year.
- It is not clear to what degree expenditures by the member institutions related to the operation of the consortium represent costs attributable to the bill or costs that the member institutions would have incurred even if the consortium did not exist.
- The costs of the member institutions will be reduced to the extent that the consortium will receive outside donations and State appropriations that the consortium will distribute as grants towards projects that indirectly or directly benefit member institutions.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium as a nonprofit organization. The consortium is to consist of five public institutions of higher education: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan University; and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The consortium is to advance research and innovation in the field of media and technology to benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs. To that end the consortium is to operate a grant program and grantees will have to obtain a pledge from a member institution of higher education for in-kind assistance equal to at least 10 percent of the value of a consortium-issued grant.

The consortium is to have a 15-member board of directors, which is to appoint an executive director to oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations. The executive director, in turn, is to employ program officers who are to manage the grant-making process. One member institution of higher education is to house the consortium and provide back-office support.

The bill requires the consortium to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities and make the report available on its Internet website. The bill also requires the board to hold one public hearing annually in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State during which the board will report on the consortium's use of public funds and gather public input on its mission and performance.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that the bill will produce an indeterminate increase in the annual expenditures of the public institutions of higher education that will be members of the non-profit New Jersey Civic Information Consortium. The annual expenditures may be partially offset by indeterminate revenue gains if a member institution receives grant funding from the consortium.

Expenditures by member institutions include the space and back office support to be provided by a member institution to the consortium. It is unclear which institution will provide this assistance and to what extent doing so will add to the annual expenditures of the hosting institution, especially considering that some of the employees of the consortium or of the hosting institution who support the consortium may be existing employees of the member institution.

Expenditures by member institutions may also include any donation and additional operating support the institutions may provide to the non-profit consortium.

Expenditures by member institutions may also include any matching assistance provided by the member institutions in support of grant applications to the consortium. The bill requires grantees to obtain a pledge from a member institution for in-kind assistance equal to at least 10 percent of the value of a consortium-issued grant.

It is not clear to what degree expenditures incurred by the member institutions related to the operation of the consortium represent costs attributable to the bill or costs that the member institutions would have incurred even if the consortium did not exist. The consortium is organized around allowing member institutions to collaborate on civic education and information, activities that are already taking place at these institutions. To the extent that the

consortium relies upon existing staff of the institutions, these consortium costs may be costs that the member institutions would have incurred anyways. Moreover, each grant is to include collaboration between a grantee and a member institution's graduate student or faculty member. As a result, the eventual in-kind assistance provided by the member institution may be assistance that the member institution would have provided to the grantee through the collaboration with member institution staff regardless of the consortium grant.

The costs of the member institutions will be reduced to the extent that the consortium will receive outside donations and State appropriations that the consortium will distribute as grants towards projects that indirectly or directly benefit member institutions.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications

*Analyst: Patrick Brennan
Lead Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 2317

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 22, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singleton, Madden and Singer

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Civic Information Consortium; appropriates \$20 million from General Fund and \$1 million annually thereafter.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2018)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium,
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making
3 an appropriation.

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. The people of New Jersey need accurate, relevant, timely,
10 and trustworthy news and information to be civically engaged,
11 make informed voting decisions, and work toward common
12 solutions in their communities.

13 b. News media operations in the State have endured major
14 cutbacks in recent years, resulting in less coverage of important
15 State matters. These cutbacks not only hurt the news media's
16 financial health, but also harm communities by reducing the news
17 and civic information to which residents have access.

18 c. This situation has resulted in the need to authorize the
19 establishment of, and to fund, the New Jersey Civic Information
20 Consortium (consortium), a consortium of five State public
21 universities, to advance research and innovation in the field of
22 media and technology to better inform the State's communities to
23 benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs.

24 d. By leveraging the resources, knowledge, and expertise of the
25 State's public universities through a partnership with The College
26 of New Jersey, Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute
27 of Technology, Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State
28 University, the consortium could bolster public-interest journalism,
29 civic information, and media innovation.

30 e. The consortium would provide grants that support news and
31 information that benefit the State's civic life and meet the evolving
32 information needs of New Jersey's underserved communities.

33 f. Investments from the consortium, supporting the State's
34 academia, media, innovation, and community service sectors, could
35 advance these goals while ensuring financial sustainability,
36 accountability, and lasting public faith in both the consortium and
37 the work it supports.

38 g. It is therefore necessary and in the public interest to
39 establish the consortium and provide a funding source for the
40 awarding of grants to organizations working to meet these goals.

41
42 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
43 Legislature as this bill):

44 "Board of directors" or "board" means the board of directors of
45 the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium established pursuant
46 of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
47 Legislature as this bill).

1 “Consortium” means the New Jersey Civic Information
2 Consortium established pursuant to section 3 of
3 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4 “In-kind contribution” means a contribution of goods or services,
5 other than a cash grant.

6 “Local community organization” means a locally-based
7 organization serving a community of people having shared interests
8 that is incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to
9 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of
10 the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3).

11 “Member university” means The College of New Jersey,
12 Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology,
13 Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State University.

14

15 3. a. There is established the New Jersey Civic Information
16 Consortium which shall consist of the following member
17 universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State
18 University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan
19 University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the
20 consortium shall be to advance research and innovation in the field
21 of media and technology to benefit the State’s civic life and
22 evolving information needs.

23 b. The consortium shall be established as a nonprofit
24 corporation that is an educational and charitable corporation validly
25 existing and in good standing under the "New Jersey Nonprofit
26 Corporation Act," P.L.1983, c.127 (N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq.), is
27 incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to
28 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of
29 the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3), and
30 structured as a supporting organization to its member universities in
31 a manner that the Internal Revenue Service would deem the
32 consortium to be a public charity, and shall be subject to all
33 applicable State laws governing nonprofit corporations. The
34 consortium shall be accountable and subject to the same federal
35 Internal Revenue Code disclosure requirements of any nonprofit
36 organization pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s.6033, such as making public
37 its Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and filing a copy of that
38 form and a copy of its annual financial report and audited financial
39 reports with the Attorney General.

40

41 4. a. The consortium shall have a board of directors that shall
42 set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium’s grant-
43 making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants pursuant
44 to section 7 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
45 as this bill).

46 b. The board of directors shall consist of 13 members as
47 follows:

48 (1) two members appointed by the Governor;

1 (2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

2 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
3 Assembly;

4 (4) five members appointed by the president of each member
5 university, each of whom shall have background or experience in
6 the field of journalism, media, or technology; and

7 (5) four members, appointed by a majority vote of the nine
8 board members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) of
9 this subsection, of which: (a) one member shall represent the media
10 sector; (b) one member shall represent the technology sector; and
11 (c) two members, not employed by the State or a member university
12 at the time of the member's appointment, shall have demonstrated a
13 record of commitment to public service and understand the
14 importance of media and technology to the State's future.

15 c. Each board member shall serve a term of four years, except
16 that the member representing the New Jersey media sector shall
17 serve an initial term of one year and the member representing the
18 New Jersey technology sector shall serve an initial term of two
19 years. No board member shall serve more than two four-year terms.
20 In the appointment of members to the board, every effort shall be
21 made to strive for diversity and balance of representation according
22 to gender, race, ethnicity, and geography within any limits allowed
23 under law. Any vacancies in the appointed membership of the
24 board occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in
25 the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired
26 term only. Board members shall serve without compensation but
27 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
28 performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to
29 the board.

30
31 5. a. The board shall appoint and employ an executive
32 director, and fix the executive director's compensation and
33 conditions of employment. The executive director shall be the chief
34 executive, administrative, and operational officer of the consortium
35 and shall direct and supervise the administrative affairs and the
36 general management of the consortium. The executive director
37 shall oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations, which
38 includes working with the board to meet the consortium's goals and
39 grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program officers
40 and administrative staff pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
41 acting as spokesperson for the consortium's work, and raising funds
42 from external sources. The executive director shall attend all
43 meetings of the board.

44 b. (1) The executive director shall employ program officers
45 who shall be experienced practitioners with a strong understanding
46 of the media or civic technology fields. The executive director shall
47 strive to appoint program officers that represent the State's racial,
48 ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity within any limits allowed

1 under law. The program officers shall manage the grant-making
2 process, in accordance with the consortium's goals. The grant-
3 making process shall include soliciting, recommending, and
4 processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work
5 on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and
6 evaluation efforts.

7 (2) The executive director shall employ no more than three
8 administrative staff to provide operational support for the
9 consortium, including office management, support for the executive
10 director and program officers, coordination among member
11 universities, payment to grantees, human resources, and logistics.

12 c. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing administrative
13 costs, one member university shall be responsible for housing the
14 consortium and providing back-office support.

15

16 6. The consortium shall be a collaborative effort among the
17 member universities. Each member university shall focus its
18 initiatives on one area of expertise and the board of directors shall
19 decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to
20 allow for greater collaboration among member universities,
21 decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts.
22 Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well
23 as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking
24 grants.

25

26 7. a. To be eligible for a grant from the consortium, a grant
27 proposal application shall include, but not be limited to:

28 (1) evidence of a collaboration between at least one member of
29 the faculty or graduate student of a member university and at least
30 one local community organization, media organization, or
31 technology-based organization;

32 (2) information demonstrating that the collaboration would be a
33 mutually respectful partnership wherein all community and member
34 university participants invest in a project designed to serve the
35 consortium's mission and the goals cited pursuant to subsection b.
36 of this section; and

37 (3) proof that the member university or universities in total will
38 provide an amount of funding or make an in-kind contribution
39 having a value that matches 10 percent of the amount of grant
40 funding for which the applicant has applied, if an application is
41 sponsored by one or more member universities. For a grant
42 proposal application sponsored by a member university housing the
43 consortium and providing back-office support pursuant to
44 subsection c. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
45 the Legislature as this bill), the cost of that housing and support to
46 that member university shall count towards the funding or in-kind
47 contribution match from that member university.

1 b. The consortium shall provide grants for projects that achieve
2 the following goals:

3 (1) improve the quantity and quality of civic information in New
4 Jersey communities;

5 (2) give residents enhanced access to useful government data
6 and public information through innovative applications, platforms,
7 and technologies;

8 (3) train students, professionals, and community members in the
9 practice of community storytelling, journalism, and media
10 production;

11 (4) nurture better civic engagement and dialogue inside and
12 between New Jersey communities;

13 (5) better meet the information needs of low-income
14 communities and racial and ethnic communities that have been
15 underserved by the media; and

16 (6) invest in research and practices that can help media outlets
17 become more closely connected to their audiences and more
18 sustainable without government support.

19

20 8. A grant issued by the consortium shall be in the form of a
21 grant agreement. A grant agreement shall include a provision
22 establishing a set of metrics for assessing the goals contained in the
23 agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee project on how well
24 those metrics are being met and any other relevant accountability
25 measures. The set of metrics shall be established by the board in
26 conjunction with the executive director and program officers. The
27 agreement shall include the expectations stated between the
28 consortium and the grantee, which shall include, but not be limited
29 to, a statement that:

30 a. the grantee shall be independent from the influence of the
31 State, a member university, and any other grantor or contributor of
32 funds or outside source; and

33 b. any grantor or other contributor of funds to the grantee shall
34 acknowledge in writing the grantor's or contributor's understanding
35 that the grant or donation does not entitle the grantor or contributor
36 to dictate or influence the content of any work the grantee produces
37 or may produce.

38

39 9. a. The consortium shall annually report to the Governor
40 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
41 Legislature, on the activities of the consortium and make the report
42 available on the consortium's Internet website. The report shall
43 include, but not be limited to:

44 (1) a list of all grant applicants and approved grant applicants;

45 (2) the grant amounts of approved grant applicants;

46 (3) the amount of matching funds and types of in-kind
47 contributions provided to approved grant applicants; and

1 (4) a status report on the activities funded by an approved grant
2 applicant.

3 b. The consortium shall make available on its Internet website
4 its grant-making criteria and other relevant documents.

5 c. The board, in conjunction with the executive director and
6 program officers, shall hold one public hearing annually in the
7 northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The public
8 hearings shall provide a forum for the board to report on how the
9 public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to gather
10 public input on what the consortium's mission should be and
11 whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input shall be
12 used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and
13 process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

14
15 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the New
16 Jersey Civic Information Consortium, established pursuant to
17 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
18 as this bill), \$20,000,000 in the first fiscal year in which the bill is
19 enacted and an additional \$1,000,000 annually thereafter, to
20 effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
21 Legislature as this bill).

22
23 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

24
25

26 STATEMENT

27
28 This bill establishes the New Jersey Civic Information
29 Consortium (consortium), which is to consist of the following
30 member universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State
31 University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan
32 University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the
33 consortium is to advance research and innovation in the field of
34 media and technology to benefit the State's civic life and evolving
35 information needs. The consortium is to be established as a
36 nonprofit corporation that is an educational and charitable
37 corporation incorporated, organized, and operated under section
38 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and structured as a
39 supporting organization to its member universities in a manner that
40 the Internal Revenue Service would deem the consortium to be a
41 public charity.

42 The consortium is to have a board of directors (board) that is to
43 set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium's grant-
44 making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants. The
45 board is to consist of 13 members as follows: two members
46 appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the President
47 of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
48 Assembly; five members appointed by the president of each

1 member university, each are to have background or experience in
2 the field of journalism, media, or technology; and four members,
3 appointed by a majority vote of the other nine appointed board
4 members, of which one member is to represent the media sector,
5 one member is to represent the technology sector, and two
6 members, not employed by the State or a member university at the
7 time of the member's appointment, are to have demonstrated a
8 record of commitment to public service and understand the
9 importance of media and technology to the State's future.

10 The board is to appoint and employ an executive director who is
11 to be the chief executive, administrative, and operational officer of
12 the consortium and oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations,
13 which includes working with the board to meet the consortium's
14 goals and grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program
15 officers and a limited number of administrative staff. The executive
16 director is to employ program officers who are to manage the grant-
17 making process, which is to include soliciting, recommending, and
18 processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work
19 on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and
20 evaluation efforts. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing
21 administrative costs, one member university is to be responsible for
22 housing the consortium and providing back-office support.

23 The bill requires the consortium to be a collaborative effort
24 among the member universities. Each member university is to
25 focus its initiatives on one area of expertise and the board is to
26 decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to
27 allow for greater collaboration among member universities,
28 decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts.
29 Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well
30 as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking
31 grants.

32 A grant application is to contain certain criteria as stated in the
33 bill. The consortium is to provide grants only for projects that
34 achieve the goals expressed in the bill. A grant issued by the
35 consortium is to be in the form of a grant agreement that is to
36 include a provision establishing a set of metrics for assessing the
37 goals contained in the agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee
38 project on how well those metrics are being met and any other
39 relevant accountability measures.

40 The bill requires the consortium to report annually to the
41 Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the consortium and
42 make the report available on the consortium's Internet website. The
43 report is to include, but not be limited to: 1) a list of all grant
44 applicants and approved grant applicants; 2) the grant amounts of
45 approved grant applicants; 3) the amount of matching funds and
46 types of in-kind contributions provided to approved grant
47 applicants; and 4) a status report on the activities funded by an
48 approved grant applicant. The consortium is to make available on

1 its Internet website its grant-making criteria and other relevant
2 documents.

3 The bill requires the board, in conjunction with the executive
4 director and program officers, to hold one public hearing annually
5 in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The
6 public hearings are to provide a forum for the board to report on
7 how the public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to
8 gather public input on what the consortium's mission should be and
9 whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input is to be
10 used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and
11 process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

12 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the consortium
13 \$20,000,000 in the fiscal year the bill becomes law, and \$1,000,000
14 annually thereafter, to provide start-up cost funding for consortium
15 operations, grant-making, and to otherwise carry out the purposes of
16 the bill.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2317

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2018

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2317 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium which is to consist of the following member universities: The College of New Jersey; Montclair State University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rowan University; and Rutgers, The State University. The purpose of the consortium is to advance research and innovation in the field of media and technology to benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs. The consortium is to be established as a nonprofit corporation that is an educational and charitable corporation incorporated, organized, and operated under section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and structured as a supporting organization to its member universities in a manner that the Internal Revenue Service would deem the consortium to be a public charity.

The consortium is to have a board of directors that is to set strategic priorities and metrics to guide the consortium's grant-making and other initiatives, as well as to approve grants. The board is to consist of 13 members as follows: two members appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; five members appointed by the president of each member university, each of whom are to have background or experience in the field of journalism, media, or technology; and four members, appointed by a majority vote of the other nine appointed board members, of which one member is to represent the media sector, one member is to represent the technology sector, and two members, not employed by the State or a member university at the time of the member's appointment, are to have demonstrated a record of commitment to public service and understand the importance of media and technology to the State's future.

The board is to appoint and employ an executive director who is to be the chief executive, administrative, and operational officer of the consortium and oversee the consortium's day-to-day operations, which includes working with the board to meet the consortium's

goals and grant-making requirements, hiring and managing program officers and a limited number of administrative staff. The executive director is to employ program officers who are to manage the grant-making process, which is to include soliciting, recommending, and processing grant proposals, working with grantees to ensure work on grant project ideas, and directing public engagement and evaluation efforts. To save on startup, operating, and ongoing administrative costs, one member university is to be responsible for housing the consortium and providing back-office support.

The bill requires the consortium to be a collaborative effort among the member universities. Each member university is to focus its initiatives on one area of expertise and the board is to decide on each member university's focus of expertise in order to allow for greater collaboration among member universities, decrease competition for grants, and reduce redundancy of efforts. Member universities may collaborate on projects together, as well as seek out other academic institutions to partner with on seeking grants.

A grant application is to contain certain criteria as stated in the bill. The consortium is to provide grants only for projects that achieve the goals expressed in the bill. A grant issued by the consortium is to be in the form of a grant agreement that is to include a provision establishing a set of metrics for assessing the goals contained in the agreement to ensure evaluation of a grantee project on how well those metrics are being met and any other relevant accountability measures.

The bill requires the consortium to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the consortium and make the report available on the consortium's Internet website. The report is to include, but not be limited to: 1) a list of all grant applicants and approved grant applicants; 2) the grant amounts of approved grant applicants; 3) the amount of matching funds and types of in-kind contributions provided to approved grant applicants; and 4) a status report on the activities funded by an approved grant applicant. The consortium is to make available on its Internet website its grant-making criteria and other relevant documents.

The bill requires the board, in conjunction with the executive director and program officers, to hold one public hearing annually in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The public hearings are to provide a forum for the board to report on how the public funds that the consortium receives are spent and to gather public input on what the consortium's mission should be and whether the consortium is meeting its mission. Public input is to be used to assess whether the consortium's grant-making metrics and process for issuing grants needs to be changed.

The committee amended the bill to remove the appropriation from the bill. The bill, as introduced, included an appropriation from the General Fund to the consortium of \$20,000,000 in the fiscal year the bill becomes law, and \$1,000,000 annually thereafter.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2317

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator T.KEAN)

ADOPTED: JUNE 25, 2018

These floor amendments increase the membership of the board of directors of the consortium from 13 members to 15 members by adding one appointment by the Senate Minority Leader and one appointment by the Assembly Minority Leader. The amendments also require that: the Governor's two appointments not be of the same political party; no more than three of the five members appointed by the presidents of member institutions of higher education be of the same political party; and no more than two of the four members appointed by the other board members be of the same political party.

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3628
(Second Reprint)**

Assembly Bill No. 3628 (Second Reprint), which I have signed today, establishes the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium (the "Consortium"). Under this new law, five New Jersey member universities - The College of New Jersey, Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, and Rutgers, The State University - will assume the indispensable role of advancing research and innovation in the field of media and technology to benefit the State's civic life and evolving information needs.

I commend the Legislature for beginning to address one of the more challenging problems confronting New Jersey residents who want to know what is happening in the world around them in 2018 - intentionally deceptive "news." I am signing this bill because I believe the Consortium is a viable means to begin to combat the widespread proliferation of deliberately false or misleading information that threatens our democracy and contributed to getting President Trump elected. I believe it is extremely important to put in place a strong system to prevent a world in which popular but false news claims go unchallenged because of a lack of commitment or resources. This new law embodies precisely such commitment and establishes exactly such a system.

Unfortunately, however, the same cannot be said about the resources provided to the Consortium under this bill and under the legislative budget. Obviously, this law, passed contemporaneously with the budget bill, will require resources to accomplish its goals. As originally conceived, the Consortium would have been amply funded with appropriations totaling \$100 million. See Assembly Bill No. 4933 (2017); Senate Bill No. 3303. Those 2017 bills appropriately would have fought back against Governor Christie's misguided and irresponsible FY 2018 budget plan, which among other gimmicks, relied on diverting practically all of the proceeds of a one-time spectrum auction conducted by the Federal Communications Commission to plug a structural budget gap.

In the end, the FY 2018 budget as enacted did exactly what the Governor wanted - diverting nearly \$322 million of the \$332 million in total auction proceeds. In recognition of this reality, the Consortium bill thereafter was reconfigured by its sponsors to provide for a \$20 million General Fund appropriation to effectuate the purposes of the bill, and annual appropriations thereafter.

Upon introduction of the FY 2019 legislative budget in June, however, the General Fund appropriations were stricken from the bill. Instead, the legislative budget included language diverting an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 from the Trust Fund for the Support of Public Broadcasting to the Consortium to advance research and innovation in the field of media and technology to benefit the State. I am advised by the State Treasurer that far

less than \$5 million remains available in the Trust Fund for potential transfer to the Consortium. Given the diversion of auction proceeds to the General Fund, most, if not all of the remaining balances are necessary to provide for capital projects and emergency repairs required by the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority to maintain its equipment and licensing as required by the Federal Communications Commission.

Budgeting is about mathematics and priorities. Instead of constantly relying on piecemeal gimmicks like one-shot infusions of diverted funds, the goal of my Administration is to wean State budgeting away from such diversions. I would strongly prefer to establish a long-term priority list and to generate sufficient recurring revenues to pay for those priorities in a responsible manner. Nonetheless, I am hopeful that a sufficient amount of funding will be available to support the Consortium as it begins its important work. My signature today represents my unwavering commitment to strengthening news outlets in New Jersey at this very critical time in our history.

Date: August 24, 2018

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor

[Home](#) [Administration](#) [Key Initiatives](#) [News and Events](#) [Social](#) [Contact Us](#)

Newark, N.J.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

08/24/2018

TRENTON - Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A542 (Mazzeo, Lagana, Andrzejczak, Zwicker, Land, Benson, Downey/Ruiz, Bateman) - Requires certain schools to maintain supply of opioid antidotes and permits emergency administration of opioid antidote by school nurse or trained employee.

A1675 (Dancer, Conaway, Caride, Space/Beach, Smith) - Authorizes prescribed burning in certain circumstances.

A2035 (McKeon, Schaer/Pou, Cruz-Perez) - Revises "New Jersey Residential Mortgage Lending Act."

A2401 (Wimberly, Mukherji, Reynolds-Jackson/Cunningham, Gill, Turner) - Authorizes issuance of Delta Sigma Theta license plates.

A3463 (Murphy, Downey, Houghtaling/Gopal, Cruz-Perez) - Requires district boards of election to report every two hours number of voters who have voted at each precinct; authorizes challengers to request reported count.

A3628 (Greenwald, Moriarty, Murphy/Weinberg, Diegnan) - Establishes New Jersey Civic Information Consortium.

[Copy of Statement on A3628](#)

A3871 (Chiaravalloti, Egan/Diegnan, Cruz-Perez) - Concerns disqualification from unemployment benefits for misconduct.

A3904 (McKeon, Jasey, Schepisi/Cardinale, Stack) - "Tommy's Law"; requires NJT to take certain action and adopt policies concerning person injured or killed in incidents involving NJT motorbuses and rail or light rail vehicles.

A4120 (Pintor Marin, Tucker, DeAngelo/Rice, Ruiz) - Authorizes special assessments and bond issuance to replace lead-contaminated water service lines.

A4208 (Jasey, Lopez, Sumter/Rice) - Establishes "New Jersey Complete Count Commission."

A4249 (Wimberly, Pintor Marin/Ruiz, Vitale) - Expands per adjusted admission charge on hospitals to create supplemental funding pool for State's graduate medical education subsidy; appropriates \$24,285,714.

A4259 (Pintor Marin, Calabrese/Sarlo, Ruiz) - Restructures tickets sales law.

[Copy of Statement on A4259](#)

AJR137 (Pinkin/Greenstein) - Designates month of July of each year as "Smart Irrigation Month."

S2145 (Scutari, Sweeney/DeAngelo, Downey, Mukherji) - Concerns attorney fees for workers' compensation

awards.

SJR14 (Pou, Ruiz/Chaparro, Lopez, Jimenez) - Designates September 20th of each year as Hispanic Journalist Pride Day.

[Back to Top](#)

Powered by  **Translate** [Select Language](#)

[Translator Disclaimer](#)

Governor Phil Murphy

Statewide

Home

Administration

- Governor Phil Murphy
- Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver
- First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy
- Cabinet
- Boards, Commissions & Authorities
- Internship Opportunities
- Governor's Residence - Drumthwacket

Key Initiatives

- Economy & Jobs
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Law & Justice
- Transportation

News & Events

- Press Releases
- Public Addresses
- Executive Orders
- Statements on Legislation
- Administration Reports
- Transition Reports
- Press Kits

Social

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- YouTube

Contact Us

- Scheduling Requests
- Contact Us

[NJ Home](#)

[Services A to Z](#)

[Departments/Agencies](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Legal Statement &](#)

[Disclaimers](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Statement](#)



Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2018
Office of Governor PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

powered by **njoit**

YOURMONEY.NJ.GOV