

13:8A-19 to 34

September 4, 1975

Legislative History of NJSA 13:8A-19 to 34
(New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of 1971)

The New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act of 1971 (Laws of 1971, Chapter 165).

An act authorizing the creation of a debt of the State of New Jersey by issuance of bonds of the State in the sum of \$80 million to provide money for public acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes to meet the future needs of the expanding population; to enable the State to acquire such lands and to provide for State grants to assist municipalities and counties and other units of local government to acquire such lands; providing the ways and means to pay the interest of said debt and also to pay and discharge the principal thereof; and providing for the submission of this act to the people at a general election.

Laws of 1971, Chapter 165 Bill No. A155 2nd OCR

Pre filed. Sponsors: Parker, Rinaldi, Goldfarb, Dennis, Fiore, Caputo, Kaltenbachers, Margetts, Thomas, Vreeland.

March 19, 1970 - Passed in Assembly, amended.
April 28, 1970 - Public Hearing held.
April 5, 1971 - Passed in Senate, amended.
April 22, 1971 - Senate amendment passed in Assembly.
May 26, 1971 - Signed. 2nd OCR.

Enclosed is a copy of A155 and amendments. No statement of purpose. Also enclosed are portions of the governor's statement on signing.

SEE

974.90 N.J. Legislature. Senate. Committee on Agriculture,
P252 Conservation & Natural Resources. Public hearing on
1970b Assembly Bill No. 155 and Senate Bill No. 350.
(Green Acres Bond Issues), April 28, 1970.

9/10/71 Governor's Press Release announcing formation of bi-partisan committee to support a \$155 million bond issue for Higher Education and a [sic] \$80 million Green Acres bond issue which will be on the November referendum.

9/23/71 Governor's Press Release announcing final supplemental list of names to Green Acres Bond Committee.

9/23/71 Remarks of Gov. William T. Cahill before the New Jersey Bonds "Yes" Committee for Colleges and Green Acres. (copy enclosed).

This referendum question was approved by voters in the November 1971 election. On Nov. 15, 1971, Assembly Bill No. 2555, designated as "New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of 1971" was introduced.

Laws of 1971, Chapter 419, Bill No. A2555

An act concerning the acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes governing the expenditure of money for such purposes, appropriating \$20 million from the State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for such expenditure and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

Nov. 15, 1971 - Introduced by Kean, Kaltenbacher, Fiore,
Goldfarb, Dennis, Rinaldi, Cobb, Margetts,
Cafiero, Hurley.
Dec. 2 - Passed Assembly.
Dec. 6 - Passed Senate.
Jan. 24, 1972 - Signed.

Not amended during passage.

Statement on A2555:

This bill provides funds from the 1971 New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act for the acquisition of lands for public recreation and the conservation of natural resources by the Department of Environmental Protection and by local units of government.

As projects proceed as to require additional funds, the Legislature shall be notified and requested to authorize such funds as may be required.

Portions of the governor's statement on signing A2555 are enclosed.

See also:

974.90 New Jersey. Commission on Open Space Policy.
P252 Report, 1971.
1971

Clippings selected from N.J. Vertical File
"N.J. Parks--Green Acres 1968-1972" enclosed.

Appropriations made pursuant to the New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act of 1971

L. 1971, C. 419	A 2555	\$20 million
L. 1972, C. 54	A 981	\$10 "
L. 1973, C. 106	A 1465	\$15 "
L. 1973, C. 150	S 2209	\$15 "
L. 1973, C. 151	S 2210	\$12 "
L. 1974, C. 166	S 1209	\$7,974,635.00

Background Materials

Listed below are several reports and hearings which have been selected from the New Jersey Documents Collection at the State Library. This list provides a chronological history of attempts, between the 1961 enactment of the Green Acres Land Acquisition Act (N.J.S.A. 13:8A-1 to 18) and the 1971 act, to define the role of the state in public acquisition and maintenance of land.

If you wish to borrow copies of the items listed below, please telephone (609) 292-6294 or visit the State Library at 185 W. State Street, Trenton.

- 974.90 New Jersey. Legislature, Assembly. Private
R288 hearing before Special Committee of the General
1964a Assembly to make an investigation and report
on the use of public funds to acquire title to
land to be used by the State of New Jersey and to
determine whether improvements can be made in
existing procedures. December 7, 1964.
[created by AR7].
- 974.90 New Jersey Legislature, Assembly. Public hearing
R288 before Special Committee...to make an investigation...
1965a on the use of public funds to acquire title to
land to be used by the state...June 25, 1965.
[created by AR1].
- 974.90 New Jersey. Legislature, Assembly. Private hearing
R288 before Special Committee...to make an investigation..
1965b on the use of public funds to acquire title to land
to be used by the State... May 4, 1965. [created
by AR7 (1964) and reconstituted by A71 (1965)].
- 974.90 New Jersey. Governor's Commission to Evaluate the
F491 Capital Needs of New Jersey. A Capital Program.
1968 April 1968, pp. 61-65. (Pages 61-62 enclosed)
- 974.90 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. Div. of
P252 State and Regional Planning. New Jersey Open Space
1968a Policy Plan, 1968.

- 974.90 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.
P252 1985 Interim Regional Open Space Plan, 1969.
1969a
- 974.90 New Jersey. Commission on Open Space Policy.
P252 Interim Report, 1970.
1970
- 974.90 New Jersey. Commission on Open Space Policy.
P252 Public hearings held during 1970--
1970 transcribed but not printed in quantity.
Copy on file in Office of Commission Secretary,
Sidney Willis, 329 W. State Street.
- 974.90 New Jersey. Commission on Open Space Policy.
P252 Report and recommendations of the New Jersey
1970d Farm Bureau, 1970.
- 974.90 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.
P252 1985 Regional Plan for Parks and Recreation Areas, 1971.
1971c

Similar Bond Bills introduced during 1970-71 session

S350--Coffee, Sisco.

"New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation
Bonds Act of 1970", (\$60,000,000)
Jan. 20 - Introduced
Jan. 20 - Referred to Agric., Cons. & Natural Resources Com.
Apr. 28 - Public hearings held.
Died in Committee. [One provision of this bill provided
for payments in lieu of taxes to municipalities. A
similar provision was amended into A155]. (copy of
S350 enclosed.)

A643--Evers.

"New Jersey Environmental Preservation and Land
Conservation Bond Act of 1970", (\$60,000,000)
Died in Assembly Committee.
[This bill also provided for payments in lieu of
taxes to municipalities.]

Similar Land Acquisition Bills Introduced during 1970-71 session.

S351--Coffee, Sisco.

"New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation Act
of 1970", (\$60,000,000)
Died in Senate Committee.
No statement. (Copy of S351 enclosed).

S961--(1970) "New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of
1970". This bill was designed to amend and supplement
the existing New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition
Act of 1961 (Laws of 1961, Chapter 45). Died in
Senate Committee,
No statement. (Copy of S961 enclosed).

A836 (1970) - Provided that no "Green Acres" land shall be acquired by the State in any municipality, in excess of 25% of the land area of the municipality, without first obtaining the consent by ordinance of the municipality.
March 23 - Introduced.
May 7 - Passed in Assembly.
Oct. 8 - Passed in Senate.
March 8, 1971 - Vetoed by Governor.
(Copy of veto message enclosed).

A645--Evers.

"New Jersey Environmental Preservation and Land Conservation Act of 1970", (\$30,000,000).
Died in Committee.

Previous Similar Bills which Died in Committee.

1969

S508--Coffee, Sisco.

"New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation Bond Act of 1969", (\$60,000,000).

S509--Coffee, Sisco.

"New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation Act of 1969", (\$60,000,000).

A411--Parker, Raymond, et al.

"New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act of 1969", (\$60,000,000).

A917--Evers.

"New Jersey Environmental Preservation and Land Conservation Bond Act of 1969", (\$60,000,000)

A918--Evers.

"New Jersey Environmental Preservation and Land Conservation Act of 1969", (\$30,000,000).

1968

S750--Coffee, Sisco

"New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation Bond Act of 1968", (\$60,000,000).

S751--Coffee, Sisco.

"New Jersey Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation Act of 1968", (\$60,000,000).

A339--Parker, Brown, et al.

"New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act of 1968", (\$60,000,000).

A385--Littell, Selecky. Laws of 1968, Chapter 312 created a commission on open land-use policy. The Commission on Open Space Policy issued several reports. [See--"Background Materials"]

Related Provisions

These bills would require the State to pay annually to municipalities, in which property is acquired for recreation and conservation purposes, sums of money based on taxes paid prior to state acquisition, to compensate for loss of tax revenue. Bills may be examined at the State Library to determine the similarities and differences among the bills. [Most bills prescribed a twelve year timetable over which funds would be paid to municipalities on a decreasing percentage basis. A thirteen year plan was amended into A155 (Laws of 1971, Chapter 165)]. All of those listed below died in Committee.

1965

S186--Woolfenden, Dumont, Sandman, Forsythe, Stout, Bowkley, Weber.
Passed in Senate.

1966

S122--Woolfenden, Forsythe.

A432--Curry, Perskie, Rutherford, Davis.

1967

S152--Woolfenden, Forsythe.

A423--Curry, Perskie, Davis, Rutherford.

1968

S244--Dumont.

S394--Beadleston, Tanzman.

1969

S273--Dumont, Sisco.

S280--Beadleston.

1970-1971

S17--Dumont.

Later Developments

- 974.90 New Jersey. Dept. of Environmental Protection.
P252 Green acres procedural guide: local assistance
1972 program, 1972.
- 974.90 New Jersey. Dept. of Environmental Protection.
P252 Land Acquisition Section. Green Acres
1972a Local Matching Assistance Program Informational
Bulletins, 1972.
- 974.90 New Jersey. Dept. of Environmental Protection.
P252 Green Acres Uniform Relocation Assistance, 1972.
1972b
- 974.90 New Jersey. Dept. of Environmental Protection.
P252 Green Acres local assistance program; informational
1972c bulletins, 1972.

JA/ks

ASSEMBLY, No. 2555

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 1971

By Assemblymen KEAN, KALTENBACHER, FIORE, GOLDFARB,
DENNIS, RINALDI, COBB, Assemblywoman MARGETTS, Assembly-
men CAFIERO and HURLEY

(Without Reference)

AN ACT concerning the acquisition of lands for recreation and con-
servation purposes governing the expenditure of money for such
purposes, appropriating \$20 million from the State Recreation
and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for such expenditure
and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. This act may be cited as the "New Jersey Green Acres Land
2 Acquisition Act of 1971."

1 2. The Legislature hereby finds that:

2 a. The provision of lands for public recreation and conserva-
3 tion of natural resources promotes the public health, prosperity and
4 general welfare and is a proper responsibility of government;

5 b. Lands now provided for such purposes will not be adequate
6 to meet the needs of an expanding population in years to come;

7 c. The expansion of population, while increasing the need for
8 such lands, will continually diminish the supply and tend to increase
9 the cost of public acquisition of lands available and appropriate
10 for such purposes;

11 d. The State of New Jersey must act now to acquire and to
12 assist local governments to acquire substantial quantities of such
13 lands as are now available and appropriate so that they may be
14 preserved and developed for such purposes;

15 e. Since the most critical need for open lands now exists in the
16 urban sectors of the State, special attention should be focused on
17 the provision of lands for such purposes;

18 f. Acquisition of lands actively devoted to agriculture shall be
19 avoided whenever possible and in lieu thereof, whenever feasible,
20 development rights, conservation easements and other interest less
21 than a fee simple shall be acquired;

22 g. Of the approved \$80 million "New Jersey Green Acres Bond
 23 Act of 1971," the sum of \$20 million is needed now to make such
 24 acquisition possible in order to effectively implement a continuing
 25 Open Land Conservation Program and to augment the lands ac-
 26 quired and set aside for the people of New Jersey under the com-
 27 bined State and Local Assistance Program completed under the
 28 1961 State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund;

29 h. Such sum will be made available by the sale of bonds autho-
 30 rized by the New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Bond Act
 31 of 1971 approved by the people of the State of New Jersey;

32 i. It is desirable to appropriate said sum for prompt use and
 33 to specify the manner in which the Legislature now proposes that
 34 such sum, and such other funds as may be appropriated, shall be
 35 used for such purposes.

1 3. Except as the context may otherwise require:

2 a. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental
 3 Protection or his designated representative;

4 b. "Local unit" means a municipality, county or other political
 5 subdivision of this State, or any agency thereof authorized to
 6 administer, protect and maintain lands for recreation and conserva-
 7 tion purposes.

8 c. "Recreation and conservation purposes" means use of lands
 9 for parks, natural, and historic areas, forests, camping, fishing,
 10 water reserve, wildlife, hunting, boating, recreation centers, winter
 11 sports and similar uses for public recreation and conservation of
 12 natural resources;

13 d. "Land" or "lands" means real property, including improve-
 14 ments thereof or thereon, rights of way, water and other rights,
 15 easements, privileges and all other rights or interests of any kind
 16 or description in, relating to, connected with real property;

1 4. The commissioner shall use the sum appropriated by this act
 2 from the proceeds of the sale of bonds under the New Jersey Green
 3 Acres Land Acquisition Act of 1971, and such other sums as may
 4 be appropriated from time to time for like purposes, to acquire
 5 lands for recreation and conservation purposes and to make grants
 6 to assist local units to acquire lands for such purposes, subject to
 7 the conditions and limitations prescribed by this act.

1 5. In acquiring lands and making grants to assist local units to
 2 acquire lands the commissioner shall:

3 a. Seek to achieve a reasonable balance among all areas of the
 4 State in consideration of the relative adequacy of area recreation
 5 and conservation facilities at the time and the relative anticipated
 6 future needs for additional recreation and conservation facilities;

7 b. Insofar as practicable, limit acquisition to predominantly
8 open and natural and to minimize the cost of acquisition and the
9 subsequent expense necessary to render land suitable for recreation
10 and conservation purposes;

11 c. Wherever possible, select land for acquisition which is
12 suitable for multiple recreation and conservation purposes;

13 d. Give due consideration to coordination with the plans of
14 other departments of State Government with respect to land use or
15 acquisition;

16 e. Acquisition of lands actively devoted to agriculture shall be
17 avoided whenever possible and in lieu thereof, whenever feasible,
18 development rights, conservation easements and other interests
19 less than a fee simple shall be acquired.

1 6. Lands acquired by the State shall be acquired by the com-
2 missioner in the name of the State. They may be acquired by pur-
3 chase or otherwise on such terms and conditions as the commissioner
4 shall determine, or by the exercise of the power of eminent domain
5 in the manner provided in chapter 1 of Title 20 of the Revised Stat-
6 utes, except as otherwise provided by this act. This power of ac-
7 quisition shall extend to lands held by any local unit.

8 Upon the institution of an action to fix the compensation to be
9 paid, or at any time thereafter, the commissioner may file with the
10 Clerk of the Superior Court a declaration of taking, declaring that
11 the possession of one or more of the tracts or parcels of property
12 described in the petition is thereby being taken by and for the use
13 of the State. The declaration of taking shall be sufficient if it sets
14 forth (1) a description of each tract or parcel of property to be
15 taken; (2) a statement of the estate or interest in the said property
16 being taken; and (3) a statement of the sum of money estimated by
17 the commissioner to be just compensation for the taking. Upon the
18 filing of said declaration, the commissioner shall deposit with the
19 Clerk of the Superior Court the amount of the estimated compen-
20 sation stated in said declaration.

21 Upon the filing of the declaration and the depositing with the
22 Clerk of the Superior Court of the amount of the estimated com-
23 pensation as stated in the declaration, the State, without other
24 process or proceedings shall be entitled to the exclusive possession
25 and use of each tract or parcel of property described in the dec-
26 laration and may forthwith enter into and take possession of said
27 property, it being the intent of this provision that the action to fix
28 the compensation to be paid or any other proceeding relating to
29 the taking of such property or entering therein shall not delay the
30 taking of possession and the use thereof by the State. The commis-

31 sioner shall not abandon any condemnation proceeding subsequent
32 to the date upon which the State has taken possession of the prop-
33 erty as herein provided.

34 In the event that any party in possession fails to peaceably sur-
35 render the premises condemned within 30 days after service upon
36 him of the notice set forth below, then, upon affidavit of the com-
37 missioner, a writ of possession shall issue forthwith from the Clerk
38 of the Superior Court.

39 The commissioner shall cause notice of the filing of said declara-
40 tion and the making of said deposit to be served upon each party
41 to the action to fix the compensation to be paid, who resides in this
42 State, either personally or by leaving a copy thereof at his resi-
43 dence, and upon each such party who resides out of the State by
44 mailing thereof to him at his residence if known. In the event that
45 the residence of any such party or the name of such party is un-
46 known, such notice shall be published at least once in the newspaper
47 published or circulating in the county or counties in which the prop-
48 erty is located. Such service, mailing or publishing shall be made
49 within 20 days after the filing of the declaration. Upon the applica-
50 tion of any party in interest and after notice to other parties in
51 interest, including the commissioner and the Director of the
52 Division of Taxation, Department of the Treasury, the Superior
53 Court may direct that the money deposited with the Clerk of the
54 Superior Court or any part thereof to be paid forthwith, without
55 deduction of any fees or commissions, to the person or persons
56 entitled thereto for or on account of the just compensation to be
57 awarded in such action; provided, that each person shall have filed
58 with the Clerk of the Superior Court a consent in writing that, in
59 the event the award in the action shall be less than the amount de-
60 posited, the court, after such notice as the court prescribes and a
61 hearing, may determine the liability, if any, for the return of such
62 difference or any part thereof and enter judgment therefor. In no
63 event shall more than 75% of the money on deposit be paid unless
64 the party in possession shall have vacated the premises condemned.

65 If the amount of the award as finally determined by the court
66 shall exceed the amount so deposited, the person or persons to
67 whom the award is payable shall be entitled to recover from the
67A State the difference between the amount of the deposit and the
67B amount of the award, with interest at the rate of 6% per annum
67C thereon from the date of the making of the deposit. If the amount
68 of the award shall be less than the amount so deposited, the Clerk
69 of the Superior Court shall return the difference between the
70 amount of the award and the deposit to the commissioner unless

71 the amount of the deposit or any part thereof shall have thereto
72 been distributed, in which event the court, upon application of the
73 commissioner and notice to all parties interested in the award and
74 affording them an opportunity to be heard, shall enter judgment in
75 favor of the State for such difference against the party or parties
76 liable for the return thereof.

1 7. The commissioner shall prescribe rules and regulations gov-
2 erning the administration, operation and use of lands acquired
3 by the State under this act to effect the purpose of this act.

4 8. Lands approved by the commissioner for acquisition by a
5 local unit with State assistance shall be acquired by and in the
6 name of the local unit and may be acquired in any manner au-
7 thorized by law for the acquisition of lands for such purposes by
8 the local unit.

1 9. A grant to assist a local unit to acquire lands for recreation
2 and conservation purposes shall not be made under this act until:

3 a. The local unit has applied to the commissioner on forms
4 prescribed by him describing the land acquisition for which a grant
5 is sought, stating the recreation and conservation purpose or
6 purposes to which such lands will be devoted, stating the facts
7 which give rise to the need for such lands for such purpose, en-
8 closing a comprehensive plan for the development of the local unit
9 or a comprehensive conservation or environment protection
10 plan for the preservation of the local unit approved by its governing
11 body, or both, and stating such other matters as the commissioner
12 shall prescribe;

13 b. The commissioner shall have prescribed the terms and con-
14 ditions under which the grant applied for will be made;

15 c. The local unit shall have filed with the commissioner its
16 application for appropriate funding under the Federal Open Space
17 Park and Recreation Program;

18 d. The local unit shall have filed with the commissioner its
19 acceptance of such terms and conditions, and has otherwise com-
20 plied with the provisions of this act.

1 10. A grant may not be made under this act until the local unit
2 has adopted regulations governing the administration, use and de-
3 velopment of the lands in question, and until the commissioner
4 shall have approved such regulations. No such regulations may
5 be altered thereafter without the approval of the commissioner.

1 11. Grants under this act shall be made by the State Treasurer
2 upon certification of approval by the commissioner. Each grant
3 shall be in an amount equal to not more than 50% of the actual
4 cost of the lands in question.

1 12. Without limitation of the definition of "lands" herein, the
2 commissioner may acquire, or approve grants to assist a local unit
3 to acquire:

4 a. Lands subject to the right of another to occupy the same
5 for a period measured in years or otherwise; or

6 b. An interest or right consisting, in whole or in part, of a
7 restriction on the use of land by others including owners of other
8 interests therein; such interest or right sometimes known as a
9 "conservation easement."

1 13. a. Lands acquired by a local unit with the aid of a grant
2 under this act shall not be disposed of or diverted to a use for other
3 than recreation and conservation purposes without the approval
4 of the commissioner and the State House Commission and following
5 a public hearing at least 1 month prior to any such approvals. Such
6 approval of the State House Commission shall not be given unless
7 the local unit shall agree to pay an amount equal to 50% of the
8 current value of such land, as determined by the commission, into
9 the State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund,
10 if the original grant shall have been made from that fund, or, if not,
11 then into the State Treasury. Money so returned to said fund
12 shall be deemed wholly a part of the portion of that fund available
13 for grants to local units under this act.

14 b. Lands acquired by the State under this act with money from
15 the State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund
16 shall not be disposed of or diverted to use for other than recreation
17 and conservation purposes without the approval of the State House
18 Commission. Such approval shall not be given unless the com-
19 missioner shall agree to pay an amount equal to the value of such
20 land, as determined by the commission, into said fund. Money so
21 returned to said fund shall be deemed wholly a part of the portion
22 of that fund available for land acquisition by the State under this
23 act.

24 c. If land acquired by the State under this act with money from
25 the State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition Fund is
26 subsequently developed for any water supply projects, the com-
27 missioner shall pay an amount equal to the current value of the
28 land so developed, as said value is determined by the State House
29 Commission, into said fund. Money so returned to the fund shall
30 be deemed wholly a part of the portion of that fund available for
31 land acquisition by the State under this act. The commissioner
32 shall make said payment from any funds available for such purpose
33 in the State Water Development Fund or other water development
34 moneys appropriated and available for such purpose.

1 14. Use of lands acquired under this act by the State or with
 2 State assistance shall not be restricted by any conditions of race,
 3 creed, color or nationality, and shall not be restricted by any
 4 condition or residence except by direction of or with the approval
 5 of the commissioner.

1 15. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, lands to be
 2 acquired by the State under this act from any local unit may be
 3 sold to the State by the unit at private sale.

1 16. The commissioner, in executing this act, may do all things
 2 necessary or useful and convenient in connection with the acquisi-
 3 tion of lands by the State or with the assistance of the State,
 4 including the following:

5 a. Make arrangements for and direct (1) engineering, inspec-
 6 tion, legal, financial, geological, hydrological and professional
 7 services, estimates and advice; (ii) and organizational, administra-
 8 tive and other work and services;

9 b. Enter on any lands for the purpose of making surveys, bor-
 10 ings, soundings or other inspections or examinations;

11 (c) Prescribe rules and regulations to implement any provisions
 12 of this act.

1 17. The money in the State Recreation and Conservation Land
 2 Acquisition Fund created by the New Jersey Green Acres Land
 3 Acquisition Act of 1971 is hereby appropriated to the Department
 4 of Environmental Protection for use in executing the provisions of
 5 this act, according to the following division:

6 a. With respect to acquisition of lands owned by the State under
 7 this act, \$10 million;

8 b. With respect to State grants under this act to assist local
 9 units to acquire lands, \$10 million.

1 18. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill provides funds from the 1971 New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act for the acquisition of lands for public recreation and the conservation of natural resources by the Department of Environmental Protection and by local units of government.

As projects proceed as to require additional funds, the Legislature shall be so notified and requested to authorize such funds as may be required.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JANUARY 24, 1972

FOR RELEASE:
IMMEDIATE

Governor William T. Cahill today signed into law three Assembly bills designed to provide greater protection for the environment and added benefits for New Jersey citizens.

The Governor signed into law Assembly bill 2555, sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas H. Kean (R., District 11E) which appropriates \$20 million to acquire lands for public recreation and conservation.

The law appropriates \$10 million to be used by the State for acquisition of lands and \$10 million to be used as grants to assist local governments in acquiring land.

The money is available under the 1971 New Jersey Green Acres Bond Act. The Bond Act provides for a formula for payment in lieu of taxes to municipal governments.

As new projects are developed, additional funds will be appropriated up to the maximum authorized by the Bond Act.

The second bill, Assembly 2096, sponsored by Barry T. Parker (R., District 4B), provides for the creation of the "Pinelands Environmental Concept" with the responsibility for the protection and development of the Pinelands.

The council will consist of 15 members with representatives of the various interests in Burlington and Ocean Counties and Richard J. Sullivan, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Pinelands embraces large areas of land in central and southern New Jersey in Burlington and Ocean Counties.

The responsibilities of the new council include preparing

of a comprehensive plan for a region which will take into account protection of water resources and other natural features of the Pinelands.

The new law provides for an equal sharing in the funding of this organization with local agencies.

The Governor also signed Assembly bill 2181, sponsored by former Assemblyman Kenneth T. Wilson (R., District 11E), known as the Noise Control Act of 1971. The bill empowers the Department of Environmental Protection to regulate excessive noises which may be injurious to the public's health. In signing the law, the Governor made New Jersey the first state to legislate in this area.