

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Tina Kelley - For The Star-Ledger, 'Lawmakers OK less testing, more money for schools The Legislature passed a number of education-related measures on Wednesday.', Star-Ledger, The (online), 2 Jul 2022 006

Ron Zeitlinger Managing editor, 'Liberty State Park bill heads to Murphy's desk', Jersey Journal, The (online), 30 Jun2022

Teri West Journal staff writer, 'LSP bill amended: \$200M cut, task force expanded', Jersey Journal, The (online), 29 Jun2022

end

T & E and
Note to
C.13:1L-1 to
13:1L-5 and
C.13:8A-1 to
13:8A-6

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 45, *approved June 30, 2022*
Senate, No. 2807 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the Liberty State Park Design Task Force,
2 ²and² supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes ²[, and
3 making an appropriation]².
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Liberty
9 State Park Conservation, Recreation, and Community Inclusion
10 Act.”
11

12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 a. Liberty State Park, located along the waterfront of Jersey
14 City, is an urban oasis for New Jersey residents and visitors from all
15 over the world with internationally recognized landmarks including
16 the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the Manhattan skyline;

17 b. More than five million people from around New Jersey, our
18 nation, and the world visit the park each year to bask in the shadows
19 of Lady Liberty, and enjoy the park’s facilities with an average
20 750,000 annual visitors to the Liberty Science Center and around
21 700,000 annual visitors to the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island
22 ferry service passengers;

23 c. In 1977, following an intensive multi-stakeholder
24 community development process that included 23 public input
25 meetings throughout the City of Jersey City as well as Newark,
26 Hoboken, and Trenton, a Master Plan was developed by the Liberty
27 State Park Study and Planning Commission, and approved by the
28 Department of Environmental Protection. Along with open space,
29 natural trails, and wildlife preservation areas, the Master Plan
30 included various recreational uses including an amphitheater,
31 marinas, aquarium, agricultural center, fishing piers, community
32 gardens and greenhouses, public pools, ball fields, ball courts, and
33 tennis courts. The Master Plan also contemplated a public
34 transportation system to allow members of the surrounding lower
35 income community to have free and unfettered access to the Park;

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:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted June 16, 2022.

²Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 27, 2022.

1 d. The Liberty State Park Study and Planning Commission
2 established Master Plan Guidelines, which stated that, “A park is
3 for the people! And people are both young and old, active and
4 contemplative, found in grounds and in solitude, artistic and
5 athletic, nature lovers, city dwellers, residents from neighboring
6 areas and visitors from afar. The park, in a manner similar to the
7 great parks being enjoyed today which were planned a century or
8 more ago, must continue to expand to meet the needs of all persons
9 visiting the park; the park must be a growing, living organism. The
10 Commission feels that Liberty State Park should be planned to
11 serve a multitude of recreational needs of various visitors to the
12 park. It will indeed be a green cornerstone for an entire urban
13 shore, a nature environment with urban convenience. It should have
14 a proper mixture of various types of recreation and leisure
15 activities”;

16 e. Development of Liberty State Park in accordance with the
17 1977 Master Plan was affected by the park’s industrial past due to
18 the presence of environmental contamination, as well as an overall
19 lack of funding and lack of input from minority communities;

20 f. During Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, an 11-foot storm
21 surge flooded Liberty State Park causing millions of dollars of
22 extensive damage to natural resources, open space areas, and
23 recreational spaces, such as walkways, picnic areas, playgrounds,
24 and certain historic structures. With almost a decade since
25 Superstorm Sandy, not only has the park not been fully restored nor
26 repaired, but there has not been an extensive adaptation and
27 resiliency plan implemented to prevent damage from future storms
28 and protect surrounding communities. Following a revision of
29 coastal flood maps in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Liberty State
30 Park is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area as identified by the
31 United States Federal Emergency Management Agency with the
32 majority of the area in the high risk “AE Flood Zone” and high risk
33 coastal area “VE Flood Zone”;

34 g. On October 29, 2019, Governor Phil Murphy signed
35 Executive Order No. 89 establishing new requirements aimed at
36 building Statewide and community resilience, including the
37 development of a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy,
38 which declared that “New Jersey is especially vulnerable to the
39 impacts of sea level rise, increased flooding and other aspects of
40 climate change, with potentially disastrous consequences for public
41 health and safety” and acknowledged that “minority and low-
42 income communities are disproportionately affected by climate
43 change, including by the health effects of higher temperatures and
44 increased air pollution and by the displacement of coastal and low-
45 lying neighborhoods from sea level rise and flooding”;

46 h. Liberty State Park has the strong potential to promote the
47 goals of Executive Order No. 89 as well as the overall purposes and
48 objectives of the “State Park and Forestry Resources Act,”

1 P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.), the “New Jersey Green Acres
2 Land Acquisition Act of 1961,” P.L.1961, c. 45 (C.13:8A-1 et seq.),
3 and other State laws concerning State parks and forests, and the use
4 of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, by providing
5 equal access to Liberty State Park for public use and enjoyment of
6 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas, especially to
7 those local residents disproportionately affected by climate change
8 and the COVID-19 pandemic;

9 i. On ²~~September 23, 2021~~ August 5, 2021², the
10 Department of Environmental Protection created the Liberty State
11 Park Design Task Force for the purposes of ²~~developing~~ engaging
12 with, and providing advice and recommendations to, the
13 Department of Environmental Protection to inform the development
14 of² conceptual and design plans to improve conservation and
15 recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park ²to meet the diverse
16 needs of the public², and, while the task force has made some
17 progress towards those goals, it is clear that Liberty State Park is in
18 need of significant improvements and future maintenance plans that
19 ²~~can only be achieved with the~~ require the long-term² support of
20 the Legislature; and

21 j. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that Liberty State
22 Park requires critical investments to accommodate short-term and
23 long-term action items that will improve conservation ²~~and~~ ²,
24 recreational², and transportation² opportunities within the park and
25 provide for the continued maintenance of the park, and such
26 investment is in the best interest of the citizens of this State and that
27 the provision of recreational programs to all segments of the public
28 enhances the public health, prosperity, and general welfare, and is a
29 proper responsibility of the State.

30

31 3. As used in this act:

32 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Environmental
33 Protection.

34 “Department” means the Department of Environmental
35 Protection.

36 “Task force” means the Liberty State Park Design Task Force
37 established by the commissioner by administrative order dated
38 September 23, 2021 and established pursuant to section 4 of this
39 act.

40

41 4. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
42 Protection a Liberty State Park Design Task Force ²~~as a permanent~~
43 ~~entity created~~² to ²~~assist~~ advise² the department ²~~with~~ on²
44 developing both:

45 (1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and
46 enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within Liberty State
47 Park; and

1 (2) a long-term master plan for Liberty State Park that ²includes
2 the² (a) ²**improves** improvement of² park facilities, programs ²,²
3 and amenities, (b) ²**creates** creation of² new transportation and
4 mobility services to the park to ensure equal access for all
5 community residents to the park and within the park, ¹and¹ (c)
6 further ²**preserves** preservation of² the park's natural resources
7 and wildlife and ²**protects** protection² against climate change ¹**,**
8 and (d) includes plans for the department to generate revenue and
9 other funds, donations, or endowments to ensure adequate reserve
10 funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of the park¹ .

11 b. In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force shall give
12 due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational,
13 economic, and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national
14 significance of Liberty State Park. The task force shall (1) reflect
15 the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community,
16 (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational ²**,**² and²
17 cultural ²**,** and economic² opportunities and access to the park for
18 all residents, and (3) consider how the local community ²**,**
19 especially minority and local small business owners² can
20 participate and benefit from the improved park.

21 c. The Liberty State Park Design Task Force shall consist of
22 ²**17** ²³² members as follows:

23 (1) the department's ²**Deputy Commissioner for Environmental**
24 **Justice and Equity** Assistant Commissioner for State Parks,
25 Forests, and Historic Sites², or the ²**deputy** assistant²
26 commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

27 (2) the department's ²**Director of Parks and Forestry**
28 Administrator of Urban State Parks and Initiatives², or the
29 ²**director's** administrator's² designee, who shall serve ex officio;

30 (3) the Superintendent of Liberty State Park, or the
31 superintendent's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

32 (4) the Bureau Chief of the department's Office of Natural
33 Resource Restoration, or the chief's designee, who shall serve ex
34 officio;

35 (5) the president of the Friends of Liberty State Park, or the
36 president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

37 (6) the president of Liberty State Park for All, or the president's
38 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

39 (7) the mayor of Jersey City, or the mayor's designee, who shall
40 serve ex officio;

41 (8) the director of the Jersey City Department of Recreation and
42 Youth Development, or the director's designee, who shall serve ex
43 officio;

44 (9) the Hudson County Commissioner for District 3, or the
45 commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

- 1 (10) the chief of the Hudson County Division of Parks, or the
2 chief's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 3 (11) the superintendent of Jersey City Public Schools, or the
4 superintendent's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 5 (12) the president of the NAACP, New Jersey State Conference,
6 or the president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 7 (13) the president of the NAACP, Jersey City Branch, or the
8 president's designee, who shall serve ex officio; ²**[and]**²
- 9 (14) ²two members of the public appointed by the Governor;
- 10 (15) two members of the public appointed by the Senate
11 President;
- 12 (16) two members of the public appointed by the Speaker of the
13 General Assembly; and
- 14 (17)² four residents of Jersey City selected by the co-chairs of
15 the task force and approved by the commissioner.
- 16 d. The task force shall be co-chaired by the department's
17 ²**[Deputy] Assistant²** Commissioner for ²**[Environmental Justice**
18 **and Equity]** State Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites², or the
19 designee thereof, and the department's ²**[Director of Parks and**
20 **Forestry]** Administrator of Urban State Parks and Initiatives², or
21 the designee thereof. The task force shall meet at the call of the co-
22 chairs. At least ²**[nine]** 13² members of the task force shall
23 constitute a quorum for the transaction of task force business.
- 24 e. The department shall provide ²**[primary]** administrative²
25 staff support to the task force ²at the discretion of the co-chairs² .
- 26 f. ²**[The** task force shall be entitled to the assistance and
27 service of the employees of any State, county or municipal
28 department, board, bureau, commission, authority, or agency as it
29 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes, to
30 employ stenographic and clerical assistance, and to incur traveling
31 or other miscellaneous expenses as may be necessary in order to
32 perform its duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or
33 otherwise made available to it for its purposes.
- 34 g.² The members of the task force shall serve without
35 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
36 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
37 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the committee
38 for its purposes.
- 39 ²**[h.] g.²** The task force shall be subject to the provisions of
40 the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975,
41 c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).
- 42 ²**[i.] h.²** A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the
43 task force shall be prepared and made available to the public. The
44 minutes shall also be made available on the department's Internet
45 website.

1 5. a. The task force shall present the department with
2 ²recommendations related to² immediate action items designed to
3 improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State
4 Park, including immediate plans to address:

5 (1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure
6 equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of
7 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

8 (2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan
9 that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future
10 flooding;

11 (3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the
12 protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

13 (4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all
14 community residents to the park and within the park;

15 (5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and the
16 development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for
17 all age groups ¹, provided that the task force shall not recommend
18 the construction of a casino in the park and that any
19 recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities
20 is limited to rooftops and parking areas¹; and

21 (6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

22 b. No later than ²**[six]** nine² months after the date of
23 enactment of this act, ¹and after holding at least three public
24 meetings at which members of the public may participate and
25 submit written comments,¹ the task force shall ¹consider the public
26 comments and¹ submit to the department ²recommendations to
27 consider in the development of² a master plan that outlines long-
28 term plans and capital projects designed to address the items
29 enumerated in subsection a. of section 4 of this act and paragraphs
30 (1) through (6) of subsection a of this section. ²At least one of the
31 public meetings shall take place on a weekday in the evening and at
32 least one shall take place on a weekend during the day.²

33 c. The task force shall:

34 (1) ²**[give comments]** engage with² and receive
35 recommendations from the community to assist the department in
36 implementing any action item ²**[identified]** recommended²
37 pursuant to subsection a. or b. of this subsection and ensure broad
38 community engagement in the park's management and planning
39 activities;

40 (2) work with New Jersey Economic Development Authority and
41 local economic ²and community² organizations to ²**[create**
42 **community economic benefits that provide new business**
43 **opportunities and training and hiring programs for local residents,**
44 **businesses, and contractors]** provide workforce development
45 opportunities²;

1 (3) work with local environmental organizations and local
2 governmental entities to develop ²~~plans~~ recommendations² to
3 maintain and upgrade natural and scenic wildlife areas and trails,
4 and improve flood mitigation and resiliency efforts in the park;

5 (4) work with local recreational and amateur sports organizations
6 to develop ²~~plans~~ recommendations² to maintain and upgrade
7 recreational facilities in the park;

8 (5) work with local transportation advocates and local
9 governmental entities to develop ²~~and maintain plans~~
10 recommendations on how² to improve ²and maintain² access to and
11 within the park;

12 (6) ²~~seek available~~ identify potential sources of² funding for
13 land acquisition, protection, and management of wildlife preserves;
14 and

15 (7) ²work with local conservation and scientific organizations to
16 develop recommendations to² maintain and restore the ecology of
17 the waterways, including the estuary, shorelines, and nursery
18 habitat for aquatic species.

19 ²d. The task force shall expire 24 months after the effective date
20 of this act.²

21
22 ²6. Upon completion of the master plan for Liberty State Park,
23 the Department of Environmental Protection shall, within 45 days,
24 submit, to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2
25 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a written report identifying
26 additional capital funding priorities for the park.²

27
28 ²~~6.~~ ²7.² Nothing in this act shall be construed to amend,
29 repeal, limit, or otherwise affect the authority or ownership interests
30 of the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the
31 “State Park and Forestry Resources Act,” P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-
32 1 et seq.), the “New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of
33 1961,” P.L.1961, c. 45 (C.13:8A-1 et seq.), or any other law
34 concerning State parks or forests or the use of lands for recreation
35 and conservation purposes.

36
37 ²~~7.~~ ²8.² ²~~There is appropriated from the General Fund to the~~
38 ~~Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$250 million]~~
39 The Department of Environmental Protection is authorized to utilize
40 the amount of \$50 million appropriated from the federal
41 "Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund" (SFRF) established
42 pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Pub.
43 L. 117-2, and any other similar type of federal law that may be
44 hereafter enacted, in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations act,
45 P.L.2022, c. (pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No.
46 2023 and Assembly Bill No. 4402)² to support activities identified

1 by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force ², and approved by the
2 department, primarily² to improve recreational ², cultural, and
3 transportation² activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and
4 wildlife ¹~~【habits】~~ habitats¹ and areas at Liberty State Park.

5

6 ²~~【8.】~~ 9.² This act shall take effect immediately ²and shall
7 expire 24 months following enactment² .

8

9

10

11

12 Establishes Liberty State Park Design Task Force.

SENATE, No. 2807

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 6, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Liberty State Park Design Task Force; appropriates \$250 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the Liberty State Park Design Task Force,
2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
3 appropriation.

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

7
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Liberty
9 State Park Conservation, Recreation, and Community Inclusion
10 Act.”

11
12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 a. Liberty State Park, located along the waterfront of Jersey
14 City, is an urban oasis for New Jersey residents and visitors from all
15 over the world with internationally recognized landmarks including
16 the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the Manhattan skyline;

17 b. More than five million people from around New Jersey, our
18 nation, and the world visit the park each year to bask in the shadows
19 of Lady Liberty, and enjoy the park’s facilities with an average
20 750,000 annual visitors to the Liberty Science Center and around
21 700,000 annual visitors to the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island
22 ferry service passengers;

23 c. In 1977, following an intensive multi-stakeholder community
24 development process that included 23 public input meetings
25 throughout the City of Jersey City as well as Newark, Hoboken, and
26 Trenton, a Master Plan was developed by the Liberty State Park
27 Study and Planning Commission, and approved by the Department
28 of Environmental Protection. Along with open space, natural trails,
29 and wildlife preservation areas, the Master Plan included various
30 recreational uses including an amphitheater, marinas, aquarium,
31 agricultural center, fishing piers, community gardens and
32 greenhouses, public pools, ball fields, ball courts, and tennis courts.
33 The Master Plan also contemplated a public transportation system
34 to allow members of the surrounding lower income community to
35 have free and unfettered access to the Park;

36 d. The Liberty State Park Study and Planning Commission
37 established Master Plan Guidelines, which stated that, “A park is
38 for the people! And people are both young and old, active and
39 contemplative, found in grounds and in solitude, artistic and
40 athletic, nature lovers, city dwellers, residents from neighboring
41 areas and visitors from afar. The park, in a manner similar to the
42 great parks being enjoyed today which were planned a century or
43 more ago, must continue to expand to meet the needs of all persons
44 visiting the park; the park must be a growing, living organism. The
45 Commission feels that Liberty State Park should be planned to
46 serve a multitude of recreational needs of various visitors to the
47 park. It will indeed be a green cornerstone for an entire urban
48 shore, a nature environment with urban convenience. It should have

1 a proper mixture of various types of recreation and leisure
2 activities”;

3 e. Development of Liberty State Park in accordance with the
4 1977 Master Plan was affected by the park’s industrial past due to
5 the presence of environmental contamination, as well as an overall
6 lack of funding and lack of input from minority communities;

7 f. During Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, an 11-foot storm
8 surge flooded Liberty State Park causing millions of dollars of
9 extensive damage to natural resources, open space areas, and
10 recreational spaces, such as walkways, picnic areas, playgrounds,
11 and certain historic structures. With almost a decade since
12 Superstorm Sandy, not only has the park not been fully restored nor
13 repaired, but there has not been an extensive adaptation and
14 resiliency plan implemented to prevent damage from future storms
15 and protect surrounding communities. Following a revision of
16 coastal flood maps in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Liberty State
17 Park is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area as identified by the
18 United States Federal Emergency Management Agency with the
19 majority of the area in the high risk “AE Flood Zone” and high risk
20 coastal area “VE Flood Zone”;

21 g. On October 29, 2019, Governor Phil Murphy signed
22 Executive Order No. 89 establishing new requirements aimed at
23 building Statewide and community resilience, including the
24 development of a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy,
25 which declared that “New Jersey is especially vulnerable to the
26 impacts of sea level rise, increased flooding and other aspects of
27 climate change, with potentially disastrous consequences for public
28 health and safety” and acknowledged that “minority and low-
29 income communities are disproportionately affected by climate
30 change, including by the health effects of higher temperatures and
31 increased air pollution and by the displacement of coastal and low-
32 lying neighborhoods from sea level rise and flooding”;

33 h. Liberty State Park has the strong potential to promote the
34 goals of Executive Order No. 89 as well as the overall purposes and
35 objectives of the “State Park and Forestry Resources Act,”
36 P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.), the “New Jersey Green Acres
37 Land Acquisition Act of 1961,” P.L.1961, c. 45 (C.13:8A-1 et seq.),
38 and other State laws concerning State parks and forests, and the use
39 of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, by providing
40 equal access to Liberty State Park for public use and enjoyment of
41 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas, especially to
42 those local residents disproportionately affected by climate change
43 and the COVID-19 pandemic;

44 i. On September 23, 2021, the Department of Environmental
45 Protection created the Liberty State Park Design Task Force for the
46 purposes of developing conceptual and design plans to improve
47 conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park,
48 and, while the task force has made some progress towards those

1 goals, it is clear that Liberty State Park is in need of significant
2 improvements and future maintenance plans that can only be
3 achieved with the support of the Legislature; and

4 j. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that Liberty State
5 Park requires critical investments to accommodate short-term and
6 long-term action items that will improve conservation and
7 recreational opportunities within the park and provide for the
8 continued maintenance of the park, and such investment is in the
9 best interest of the citizens of this State and that the provision of
10 recreational programs to all segments of the public enhances the
11 public health, prosperity, and general welfare, and is a proper
12 responsibility of the State.

13

14 3. As used in this act:

15 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Environmental
16 Protection.

17 “Department” means the Department of Environmental
18 Protection.

19 “Task force” means the Liberty State Park Design Task Force
20 established by the commissioner by administrative order dated
21 September 23, 2021 and established pursuant to section 4 of this
22 act.

23

24 4. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
25 Protection a Liberty State Park Design Task Force as a permanent
26 entity created to assist the department with developing both:

27 (1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and
28 enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within Liberty State
29 Park; and

30 (2) a long-term master plan for Liberty State Park that (a)
31 improves park facilities, programs and amenities, (b) creates new
32 transportation and mobility services to the park to ensure equal
33 access for all community residents to the park and within the park,
34 (c) further preserves the park’s natural resources and wildlife and
35 protects against climate change, and (d) includes plans for the
36 department to generate revenue and other funds, donations, or
37 endowments to ensure adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and
38 future maintenance of the park.

39 b. In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force shall give
40 due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational,
41 economic, and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national
42 significance of Liberty State Park. The task force shall (1) reflect
43 the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community,
44 (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational, cultural,
45 and economic opportunities and access to the park for all residents,
46 and (3) consider how the local community, especially minority and
47 local small business owners can participate and benefit from the
48 improved park.

1 c. The Liberty State Park Design Task Force shall consist of 17
2 members as follows:

3 (1) the department's Deputy Commissioner for Environmental
4 Justice and Equity, or the deputy commissioner's designee, who
5 shall serve ex officio;

6 (2) the department's Director of Parks and Forestry, or the
7 director's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

8 (3) the Superintendent of Liberty State Park, or the
9 superintendent's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

10 (4) the Bureau Chief of the department's Office of Natural
11 Resource Restoration, or the chief's designee, who shall serve ex
12 officio;

13 (5) the president of the Friends of Liberty State Park, or the
14 president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

15 (6) the president of Liberty State Park for All, or the president's
16 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

17 (7) the mayor of Jersey City, or the mayor's designee, who shall
18 serve ex officio;

19 (8) the director of the Jersey City Department of Recreation and
20 Youth Development, or the director's designee, who shall serve ex
21 officio;

22 (9) the Hudson County Commissioner for District 3, or the
23 commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

24 (10) the chief of the Hudson County Division of Parks, or the
25 chief's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

26 (11) the superintendent of Jersey City Public Schools, or the
27 superintendent's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

28 (12) the president of the NAACP, New Jersey State Conference,
29 or the president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

30 (13) the president of the NAACP, Jersey City Branch, or the
31 president's designee, who shall serve ex officio; and

32 (14) four residents of Jersey City selected by the co-chairs of the
33 task force and approved by the commissioner.

34 d. The task force shall be co-chaired by the department's Deputy
35 Commissioner for Environmental Justice and Equity, or the
36 designee thereof, and the department's Director of Parks and
37 Forestry, or the designee thereof. The task force shall meet at the
38 call of the co-chairs. At least nine members of the task force shall
39 constitute a quorum for the transaction of task force business.

40 e. The department shall provide primary staff support to the task
41 force.

42 f. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and service of
43 the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
44 bureau, commission, authority, or agency as it may require and as
45 may be available to it for its purposes, to employ stenographic and
46 clerical assistance, and to incur traveling or other miscellaneous
47 expenses as may be necessary in order to perform its duties, within

1 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it
2 for its purposes.

3 g. The members of the task force shall serve without
4 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
5 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
6 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the committee
7 for its purposes.

8 h. The task force shall be subject to the provisions of the
9 “Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act,” P.L.1975,
10 c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).

11 i. A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the task force
12 shall be prepared and made available to the public. The minutes
13 shall also be made available on the department's Internet website.
14

15 5. a. The task force shall present the department with
16 immediate action items designed to improve conservation and
17 recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park, including
18 immediate plans to address:

19 (1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure
20 equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of
21 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

22 (2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan
23 that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future
24 flooding;

25 (3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the
26 protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

27 (4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all
28 community residents to the park and within the park;

29 (5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and the
30 development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for
31 all age groups; and

32 (6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

33 b. No later than six months after the date of enactment of this
34 act, the task force shall submit to the department a master plan that
35 outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to address the
36 items enumerated in subsection a. of section 4 of this act and
37 paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection a of this section.

38 c. The task force shall:

39 (1) give comments and receive recommendations from the
40 community to assist the department in implementing any action
41 item identified pursuant to subsection a. or b. of this subsection and
42 ensure broad community engagement in the park's management and
43 planning activities;

44 (2) work with New Jersey Economic Development Authority and
45 local economic organizations to create community economic
46 benefits that provide new business opportunities and training and
47 hiring programs for local residents, businesses, and contractors;

1 (3) work with local environmental organizations and local
2 governmental entities to develop plans to maintain and upgrade
3 natural and scenic wildlife areas and trails, and improve flood
4 mitigation and resiliency efforts in the park;

5 (4) work with local recreational and amateur sports organizations
6 to develop plans to maintain and upgrade recreational facilities in
7 the park;

8 (5) work with local transportation advocates and local
9 governmental entities to develop and maintain plans to improve
10 access to and within the park;

11 (6) seek available funding for land acquisition, protection, and
12 management of wildlife preserves; and

13 (7) maintain and restore the ecology of the waterways, including
14 the estuary, shorelines, and nursery habitat for aquatic species.
15

16 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to amend, repeal, limit,
17 or otherwise affect the authority or ownership interests of the
18 Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the "State Park
19 and Forestry Resources Act," P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.),
20 the "New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of 1961,"
21 P.L.1961, c. 45 (C.13:8A-1 et seq.), or any other law concerning
22 State parks or forests or the use of lands for recreation and
23 conservation purposes.
24

25 7. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
26 Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$250 million to
27 support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task
28 Force to improve recreational activities and maintain and upgrade
29 scenic and wildlife habits and areas at Liberty State Park.
30

31 8. This act shall take effect immediately.
32
33

34 STATEMENT 35

36 This bill would establish a Liberty State Park Design Task Force
37 within the Department of Environmental Protection.

38 The 17-member task force is charged with assisting the DEP in
39 developing:

40 (1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and
41 enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within the park; and

42 (2) a long-term master plan that (a) improves park facilities,
43 programs and amenities, (b) creates new transportation and mobility
44 services to the park to ensure equal access for all community
45 residents to the park and within the park, (c) further preserves the
46 park's natural resources and wildlife and protects against climate
47 change, and (d) includes plans for the department to generate
48 revenue and other funds, donations, or endowments to ensure

1 adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of
2 the park.

3 In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force is to give due
4 consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational,
5 economic and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national
6 significance of Liberty State Park. The task force is to (1) reflect
7 the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community,
8 (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational, cultural,
9 and economic opportunities and access to the park for all residents,
10 and (3) consider how the local community, especially minority and
11 local small business owners can participate and benefit from the
12 improved park.

13 The task force is directed to present the DEP with immediate
14 action items designed to improve conservation and recreational
15 opportunities in Liberty State Park, including immediate plans to
16 address:

17 (1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure
18 equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of
19 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

20 (2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan
21 that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future
22 flooding;

23 (3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the
24 protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

25 (4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all
26 community residents to the park and within the park;

27 (5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and
28 development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for
29 all age groups; and

30 (6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

31 The bill further directs the task force, no later than six months
32 after the bill is enacted into law, to submit to the DEP a master plan
33 that outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to
34 address the aforementioned issues and provides for the continued
35 maintenance of the park.

36 Lastly, this bill appropriates \$250 million from the General Fund
37 to the DEP to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park
38 Design Task Force to improve recreational activities and maintain
39 and upgrade scenic and wildlife habits and areas at Liberty State
40 Park.

41 On September 23, 2021, the DEP Commissioner created, by
42 Administrative Order, a 17-member Liberty State Park Design Task
43 Force for the purposes of developing conceptual and design plans to
44 improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State
45 Park. This bill expands on the DEP's action by establishing in
46 statute that task force as a permanent entity.

47 The 1,200-acre Liberty State Park, located in Jersey City, is
48 situated along the mouth of the Hudson River where it meets the

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9

1 Upper New York Bay, and has the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of
2 Liberty, and Ellis Island as its backdrop. It represents one of the
3 last remaining contiguous open green spaces along the highly
4 developed Northern New Jersey/New York City waterfront. The
5 park is also the only location in New Jersey with ferry service to the
6 Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The park is home to the historic
7 Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal, the NJ Empty Sky 9/11
8 Memorial, the Liberty Science Center, a nature center, a waterfront
9 promenade, a marina, and picnic and play areas, among other
10 amenities.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2807

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 2022

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2807, with committee amendments.

This bill, as amended, would establish a Liberty State Park Design Task Force within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The task force would have 17 members, as enumerated in subsection c. of section 4 of the bill. The task force would be charged with assisting the DEP in developing:

(1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within the Liberty State Park; and

(2) a long-term master plan that (a) improves park facilities, programs and amenities, (b) creates new transportation and mobility services to the park to ensure equal access for all community residents to the park and within the park, and (c) further preserves the park's natural resources and wildlife and protects against climate change.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force would be required to give due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational, economic and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national significance of Liberty State Park. The task force would also: (1) reflect the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community; (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational, cultural, and economic opportunities and access to the park for all residents; and (3) consider how the local community, especially minority and local small business owners can participate and benefit from the improved park.

The bill would direct the task force to present the DEP with immediate action items designed to improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park, including immediate plans to address:

(1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

(2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future flooding;

(3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

(4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all community residents to the park and within the park;

(5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and the development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for all age groups, provided that the task force would not recommend the construction of a casino in the park and that any recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities is limited to rooftops and parking areas; and

(6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

The bill would also direct the task force, no later than six months after the bill is enacted into law, and after holding at least three public meetings at which members of the public may participate and submit written comments, to submit to the DEP, after consideration of the public comments, a master plan that outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to address the aforementioned issues and provide for the continued maintenance of the park.

Lastly, the bill would appropriate \$250 million from the General Fund to the DEP to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force to improve recreational activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and wildlife habitats and areas at Liberty State Park.

The committee amendments to the bill:

(1) remove a requirement that the master plan developed by the task force include plans for the DEP to generate revenue and other funds, donations, or endowments to ensure adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of the park;

(2) provide that the task force would not recommend the construction of a casino in the park and that any recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities made by the task force would be limited to rooftops and parking areas;

(3) require the task force to hold at least three public meetings at which members of the public may participate and submit written comments, which the task force is required to consider prior to submitting the master plan to the DEP; and

(4) correct a typographical error in the bill's text.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2807

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 28, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2807 (1R).

This bill, as amended, would establish a Liberty State Park Design Task Force within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The task force would have 23 members, as enumerated in subsection c. of section 4 of the bill. The task force would be charged with providing advice to the DEP on developing:

(1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within Liberty State Park; and

(2) a long-term master plan that includes the (a) improvement of park facilities, programs, and amenities, (b) creation of new transportation and mobility services to the park to ensure equal access for all community residents to the park and within the park, and (c) further preservation of the park's natural resources and wildlife and protection against climate change.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force would be required to give due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational, economic and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national significance of Liberty State Park. The task force would also: (1) reflect the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community; (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational and cultural opportunities and access to the park for all residents; and (3) consider how the local community can participate and benefit from the improved park.

The bill would direct the task force to present recommendations to the DEP on developing short-term action items designed to improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park, including immediate plans to address:

(1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

(2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future flooding;

(3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

(4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all community residents to the park and within the park;

(5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and the development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for all age groups, provided that the task force would not recommend the construction of a casino in the park and that any recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities is limited to rooftops and parking areas; and

(6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

The bill would also direct the task force, no later than nine months after the bill is enacted into law, and after holding at least three public meetings at which members of the public may participate and submit written comments, to submit to the DEP, after consideration of the public comments, recommendations to consider in the development of a master plan that outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to address the aforementioned issues and provide for the continued maintenance of the park.

The bill would authorize the DEP to utilize the amount of \$50 million appropriated from the federal "Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund" (SFRF) established pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Pub. L. 117-2, and any other similar type of federal law that may be enacted, in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations act, to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force, and approved by the department, primarily to improve recreational, cultural, and transportation activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and wildlife habitats and areas at Liberty State Park.

The bill would expire 24 months after the date of its enactment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

(1) make changes to the bill's findings and declarations;

(2) change the task force to a temporary task force that will expire 24 months after the bill is enacted in to law;

(3) increase the number of members of the task force from 17 to 23 by adding add six public members, two appointed by the Governor, two appointed by the Senate President, and two appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(4) change the designated co-chairs of the task force from the Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Justice and Equity and the Director of Parks and Forestry to the Assistant Commissioner for State Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites and the Administrator of Urban State Parks and Initiatives;

(5) remove a requirement that the master plan include plans for the DEP to generate revenue and other funds, donations, or endowments to

ensure adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of the park;

(6) clarify that the task force would not be responsible for submitting a master plan to the DEP but would provide advice and recommendations to the DEP for action items and the master plan;

(7) provide that the task force would not recommend the construction of a casino in the park and that any recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities made by the task force would be limited to rooftops and parking areas;

(8) require the task force to hold at least three public meetings at which members of the public may participate and submit written comments, which the task force is required to consider prior to submitting recommendations to the DEP and require that of the three public meetings, one would be required to take place on a weekday in the evening and at least one would be required to take place on a weekend during the day;

(9) add a requirement for the DEP, within 45 days after completion of the master plan for Liberty State Park, to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a written report identifying the additional capital funding priorities for the park; and

(10) delete the \$250 million appropriation from the bill and instead authorize the DEP to utilize the amount of \$50 million appropriated from the federal "Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund" (SFRF) established pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Pub. L. 117-2, and any other similar type of federal law that may be enacted, in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations act, to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force, and approved by the department, primarily to improve recreational, cultural, and transportation activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and wildlife habitats and areas at Liberty State Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4264

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman WILLIAM B. SAMPSON, IV

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Tucker and Jimenez

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Liberty State Park Design Task Force; appropriates \$250 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the Liberty State Park Design Task Force,
2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
3 appropriation.

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

7
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Liberty
9 State Park Conservation, Recreation, and Community Inclusion
10 Act.”

11
12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 a. Liberty State Park, located along the waterfront of Jersey
14 City, is an urban oasis for New Jersey residents and visitors from all
15 over the world with internationally recognized landmarks including
16 the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the Manhattan skyline;

17 b. More than five million people from around New Jersey, our
18 nation, and the world visit the park each year to bask in the shadows
19 of Lady Liberty, and enjoy the park’s facilities with an average
20 750,000 annual visitors to the Liberty Science Center and around
21 700,000 annual visitors to the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island
22 ferry service passengers;

23 c. In 1977, following an intensive multi-stakeholder community
24 development process that included 23 public input meetings
25 throughout the City of Jersey City as well as Newark, Hoboken, and
26 Trenton, a Master Plan was developed by the Liberty State Park
27 Study and Planning Commission, and approved by the Department
28 of Environmental Protection. Along with open space, natural trails,
29 and wildlife preservation areas, the Master Plan included various
30 recreational uses including an amphitheater, marinas, aquarium,
31 agricultural center, fishing piers, community gardens and
32 greenhouses, public pools, ball fields, ball courts, and tennis courts.
33 The Master Plan also contemplated a public transportation system
34 to allow members of the surrounding lower income community to
35 have free and unfettered access to the Park;

36 d. The Liberty State Park Study and Planning Commission
37 established Master Plan Guidelines, which stated that, “A park is
38 for the people! And people are both young and old, active and
39 contemplative, found in grounds and in solitude, artistic and
40 athletic, nature lovers, city dwellers, residents from neighboring
41 areas and visitors from afar. The park, in a manner similar to the
42 great parks being enjoyed today which were planned a century or
43 more ago, must continue to expand to meet the needs of all persons
44 visiting the park; the park must be a growing, living organism. The
45 Commission feels that Liberty State Park should be planned to
46 serve a multitude of recreational needs of various visitors to the
47 park. It will indeed be a green cornerstone for an entire urban
48 shore, a nature environment with urban convenience. It should have

1 a proper mixture of various types of recreation and leisure
2 activities”;

3 e. Development of Liberty State Park in accordance with the
4 1977 Master Plan was affected by the park’s industrial past due to
5 the presence of environmental contamination, as well as an overall
6 lack of funding and lack of input from minority communities;

7 f. During Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, an 11-foot storm
8 surge flooded Liberty State Park causing millions of dollars of
9 extensive damage to natural resources, open space areas, and
10 recreational spaces, such as walkways, picnic areas, playgrounds,
11 and certain historic structures. With almost a decade since
12 Superstorm Sandy, not only has the park not been fully restored nor
13 repaired, but there has not been an extensive adaptation and
14 resiliency plan implemented to prevent damage from future storms
15 and protect surrounding communities. Following a revision of
16 coastal flood maps in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Liberty State
17 Park is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area as identified by the
18 United States Federal Emergency Management Agency with the
19 majority of the area in the high risk “AE Flood Zone” and high risk
20 coastal area “VE Flood Zone”;

21 g. On October 29, 2019, Governor Phil Murphy signed
22 Executive Order No. 89 establishing new requirements aimed at
23 building Statewide and community resilience, including the
24 development of a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy,
25 which declared that “New Jersey is especially vulnerable to the
26 impacts of sea level rise, increased flooding and other aspects of
27 climate change, with potentially disastrous consequences for public
28 health and safety” and acknowledged that “minority and low-
29 income communities are disproportionately affected by climate
30 change, including by the health effects of higher temperatures and
31 increased air pollution and by the displacement of coastal and low-
32 lying neighborhoods from sea level rise and flooding”;

33 h. Liberty State Park has the strong potential to promote the
34 goals of Executive Order No. 89 as well as the overall purposes and
35 objectives of the “State Park and Forestry Resources Act,”
36 P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.), the “New Jersey Green Acres
37 Land Acquisition Act of 1961,” P.L.1961, c. 45 (C.13:8A-1 et seq.),
38 and other State laws concerning State parks and forests, and the use
39 of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, by providing
40 equal access to Liberty State Park for public use and enjoyment of
41 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas, especially to
42 those local residents disproportionately affected by climate change
43 and the COVID-19 pandemic;

44 i. On September 23, 2021, the Department of Environmental
45 Protection created the Liberty State Park Design Task Force for the
46 purposes of developing conceptual and design plans to improve
47 conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park,
48 and, while the task force has made some progress towards those

1 goals, it is clear that Liberty State Park is in need of significant
2 improvements and future maintenance plans that can only be
3 achieved with the support of the Legislature; and

4 j. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that Liberty State
5 Park requires critical investments to accommodate short-term and
6 long-term action items that will improve conservation and
7 recreational opportunities within the park and provide for the
8 continued maintenance of the park, and such investment is in the
9 best interest of the citizens of this State and that the provision of
10 recreational programs to all segments of the public enhances the
11 public health, prosperity, and general welfare, and is a proper
12 responsibility of the State.

13

14 3. As used in this act:

15 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Environmental
16 Protection.

17 “Department” means the Department of Environmental
18 Protection.

19 “Task force” means the Liberty State Park Design Task Force
20 established by the commissioner by administrative order dated
21 September 23, 2021 and established pursuant to section 4 of this
22 act.

23

24 4. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
25 Protection a Liberty State Park Design Task Force as a permanent
26 entity created to assist the department with developing both:

27 (1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and
28 enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within Liberty State
29 Park; and

30 (2) a long-term master plan for Liberty State Park that (a)
31 improves park facilities, programs and amenities, (b) creates new
32 transportation and mobility services to the park to ensure equal
33 access for all community residents to the park and within the park,
34 (c) further preserves the park’s natural resources and wildlife and
35 protects against climate change, and (d) includes plans for the
36 department to generate revenue and other funds, donations, or
37 endowments to ensure adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and
38 future maintenance of the park.

39 b. In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force shall give
40 due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational,
41 economic, and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national
42 significance of Liberty State Park. The task force shall (1) reflect
43 the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community,
44 (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational, cultural,
45 and economic opportunities and access to the park for all residents,
46 and (3) consider how the local community, especially minority and
47 local small business owners can participate and benefit from the
48 improved park.

- 1 c. The Liberty State Park Design Task Force shall consist of 17
2 members as follows:
- 3 (1) the department's Deputy Commissioner for Environmental
4 Justice and Equity, or the deputy commissioner's designee, who
5 shall serve ex officio;
- 6 (2) the department's Director of Parks and Forestry, or the
7 director's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 8 (3) the Superintendent of Liberty State Park, or the
9 superintendent's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 10 (4) the Bureau Chief of the department's Office of Natural
11 Resource Restoration, or the chief's designee, who shall serve ex
12 officio;
- 13 (5) the president of the Friends of Liberty State Park, or the
14 president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 15 (6) the president of Liberty State Park for All, or the president's
16 designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 17 (7) the mayor of Jersey City, or the mayor's designee, who shall
18 serve ex officio;
- 19 (8) the director of the Jersey City Department of Recreation and
20 Youth Development, or the director's designee, who shall serve ex
21 officio;
- 22 (9) the Hudson County Commissioner for District 3, or the
23 commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 24 (10) the chief of the Hudson County Division of Parks, or the
25 chief's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 26 (11) the superintendent of Jersey City Public Schools, or the
27 superintendent's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 28 (12) the president of the NAACP, New Jersey State Conference,
29 or the president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 30 (13) the president of the NAACP, Jersey City Branch, or the
31 president's designee, who shall serve ex officio; and
- 32 (14) four residents of Jersey City selected by the co-chairs of the
33 task force and approved by the commissioner.
- 34 d. The task force shall be co-chaired by the department's Deputy
35 Commissioner for Environmental Justice and Equity, or the
36 designee thereof, and the department's Director of Parks and
37 Forestry, or the designee thereof. The task force shall meet at the
38 call of the co-chairs. At least nine members of the task force shall
39 constitute a quorum for the transaction of task force business.
- 40 e. The department shall provide primary staff support to the task
41 force.
- 42 f. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and service of
43 the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
44 bureau, commission, authority, or agency as it may require and as
45 may be available to it for its purposes, to employ stenographic and
46 clerical assistance, and to incur traveling or other miscellaneous
47 expenses as may be necessary in order to perform its duties, within

1 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it
2 for its purposes.

3 g. The members of the task force shall serve without
4 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
5 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
6 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the committee
7 for its purposes.

8 h. The task force shall be subject to the provisions of the
9 “Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act,” P.L.1975,
10 c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).

11 i. A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the task force
12 shall be prepared and made available to the public. The minutes
13 shall also be made available on the department's Internet website.
14

15 5. a. The task force shall present the department with
16 immediate action items designed to improve conservation and
17 recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park, including
18 immediate plans to address:

19 (1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure
20 equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of
21 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

22 (2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan
23 that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future
24 flooding;

25 (3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the
26 protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

27 (4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all
28 community residents to the park and within the park;

29 (5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and the
30 development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for
31 all age groups; and

32 (6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

33 b. No later than six months after the date of enactment of this
34 act, the task force shall submit to the department a master plan that
35 outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to address the
36 items enumerated in subsection a. of section 4 of this act and
37 paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection a of this section.

38 c. The task force shall:

39 (1) give comments and receive recommendations from the
40 community to assist the department in implementing any action
41 item identified pursuant to subsection a. or b. of this subsection and
42 ensure broad community engagement in the park's management and
43 planning activities;

44 (2) work with New Jersey Economic Development Authority and
45 local economic organizations to create community economic
46 benefits that provide new business opportunities and training and
47 hiring programs for local residents, businesses, and contractors;

1 (3) work with local environmental organizations and local
2 governmental entities to develop plans to maintain and upgrade
3 natural and scenic wildlife areas and trails, and improve flood
4 mitigation and resiliency efforts in the park;

5 (4) work with local recreational and amateur sports organizations
6 to develop plans to maintain and upgrade recreational facilities in
7 the park;

8 (5) work with local transportation advocates and local
9 governmental entities to develop and maintain plans to improve
10 access to and within the park;

11 (6) seek available funding for land acquisition, protection, and
12 management of wildlife preserves; and

13 (7) maintain and restore the ecology of the waterways, including
14 the estuary, shorelines, and nursery habitat for aquatic species.
15

16 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to amend, repeal, limit,
17 or otherwise affect the authority or ownership interests of the
18 Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the "State Park
19 and Forestry Resources Act," P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.),
20 the "New Jersey Green Acres Land Acquisition Act of 1961,"
21 P.L.1961, c. 45 (C.13:8A-1 et seq.), or any other law concerning
22 State parks or forests or the use of lands for recreation and
23 conservation purposes.
24

25 7. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
26 Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$250 million to
27 support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task
28 Force to improve recreational activities and maintain and upgrade
29 scenic and wildlife habits and areas at Liberty State Park.
30

31 8. This act shall take effect immediately.
32
33

34 STATEMENT
35

36 This bill would establish a Liberty State Park Design Task Force
37 within the Department of Environmental Protection.

38 The 17-member task force is charged with assisting the DEP in
39 developing:

40 (1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and
41 enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within the park; and

42 (2) a long-term master plan that (a) improves park facilities,
43 programs and amenities, (b) creates new transportation and mobility
44 services to the park to ensure equal access for all community
45 residents to the park and within the park, (c) further preserves the
46 park's natural resources and wildlife and protects against climate
47 change, and (d) includes plans for the department to generate
48 revenue and other funds, donations, or endowments to ensure

1 adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of
2 the park.

3 In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force is to give due
4 consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational,
5 economic and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national
6 significance of Liberty State Park. The task force is to (1) reflect
7 the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community,
8 (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational, cultural,
9 and economic opportunities and access to the park for all residents,
10 and (3) consider how the local community, especially minority and
11 local small business owners can participate and benefit from the
12 improved park.

13 The task force is directed to present the DEP with immediate
14 action items designed to improve conservation and recreational
15 opportunities in Liberty State Park, including immediate plans to
16 address:

17 (1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure
18 equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of
19 conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

20 (2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan
21 that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future
22 flooding;

23 (3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the
24 protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

25 (4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all
26 community residents to the park and within the park;

27 (5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and
28 development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for
29 all age groups; and

30 (6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

31 The bill further directs the task force, no later than six months
32 after the bill is enacted into law, to submit to the DEP a master plan
33 that outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to
34 address the aforementioned issues and provides for the continued
35 maintenance of the park.

36 Lastly, this bill appropriates \$250 million from the General Fund
37 to the DEP to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park
38 Design Task Force to improve recreational activities and maintain
39 and upgrade scenic and wildlife habits and areas at Liberty State
40 Park.

41 On September 23, 2021, the DEP Commissioner created, by
42 Administrative Order, a 17-member Liberty State Park Design Task
43 Force for the purposes of developing conceptual and design plans to
44 improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State
45 Park. This bill expands on the DEP's action by establishing in
46 statute that task force as a permanent entity.

47 The 1,200-acre Liberty State Park, located in Jersey City, is
48 situated along the mouth of the Hudson River where it meets the

1 Upper New York Bay, and has the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of
2 Liberty, and Ellis Island as its backdrop. It represents one of the
3 last remaining contiguous open green spaces along the highly
4 developed Northern New Jersey/New York City waterfront. The
5 park is also the only location in New Jersey with ferry service to the
6 Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The park is home to the historic
7 Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal, the NJ Empty Sky 9/11
8 Memorial, the Liberty Science Center, a nature center, a waterfront
9 promenade, a marina, and picnic and play areas, among other
10 amenities.

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4264

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 2022

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4264.

This bill would establish a Liberty State Park Design Task Force within the Department of Environmental Protection.

The 17-member task force is charged with assisting the DEP in developing:

(1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within the park; and

(2) a long-term master plan that (a) improves park facilities, programs and amenities, (b) creates new transportation and mobility services to the park to ensure equal access for all community residents to the park and within the park, (c) further preserves the park's natural resources and wildlife and protects against climate change, and (d) includes plans for the department to generate revenue and other funds, donations, or endowments to ensure adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of the park.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force is to give due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational, economic and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national significance of Liberty State Park. The task force is to (1) reflect the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community, (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational, cultural, and economic opportunities and access to the park for all residents, and (3) consider how the local community, especially minority and local small business owners can participate and benefit from the improved park.

The task force is directed to present the DEP with immediate action items designed to improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park, including immediate plans to address:

(1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

(2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future flooding;

(3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

(4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all community residents to the park and within the park;

(5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for all age groups; and

(6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

The bill further directs the task force, no later than six months after the bill is enacted into law, to submit to the DEP a master plan that outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to address the aforementioned issues and provides for the continued maintenance of the park.

Lastly, this bill appropriates \$250 million from the General Fund to the DEP to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force to improve recreational activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and wildlife habits and areas at Liberty State Park.

On September 23, 2021, the DEP Commissioner created, by Administrative Order, a 17-member Liberty State Park Design Task Force for the purposes of developing conceptual and design plans to improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park. This bill expands on the DEP's action by establishing in statute that task force as a permanent entity.

The 1,200-acre Liberty State Park, located in Jersey City, is situated along the mouth of the Hudson River where it meets the Upper New York Bay, and has the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island as its backdrop. It represents one of the last remaining contiguous open green spaces along the highly developed Northern New Jersey/New York City waterfront. The park is also the only location in New Jersey with ferry service to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The park is home to the historic Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal, the NJ Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial, the Liberty Science Center, a nature center, a waterfront promenade, a marina, and picnic and play areas, among other amenities.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4264

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4264, with committee amendments.

This bill, as amended, would establish a Liberty State Park Design Task Force within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The task force would have 23 members, as enumerated in subsection c. of section 4 of the bill. The task force would be charged with providing advice to the DEP on developing:

(1) short-term action items designed to improve public use and enjoyment of conservation and recreation areas within Liberty State Park; and

(2) a long-term master plan that includes the (a) improvement of park facilities, programs, and amenities, (b) creation of new transportation and mobility services to the park to ensure equal access for all community residents to the park and within the park, and (c) further preservation of the park's natural resources and wildlife and protection against climate change.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force would be required to give due consideration to the natural, historic, cultural, recreational, economic and scenic resources, and the local, State, and national significance of Liberty State Park. The task force would also: (1) reflect the diversity of the Hudson County and the Jersey City community; (2) give due consideration to the creation of recreational and cultural opportunities and access to the park for all residents; and (3) consider how the local community can participate and benefit from the improved park.

The bill would direct the task force to present recommendations to the DEP on developing short-term action items designed to improve conservation and recreational opportunities in Liberty State Park, including immediate plans to address:

(1) the need for environmental justice and social equity to ensure equal access to the park for public use and enjoyment of conservation areas, open space, and recreational areas;

(2) the preservation of natural resources through a resiliency plan that allows the park to withstand rising sea levels and future flooding;

(3) wildlife management and habitat restoration planning for the protection of native and endangered species and migratory birds;

(4) transportation and mobility planning to improve access for all community residents to the park and within the park;

(5) upgrades to park facilities, programs, and amenities, and the development of new recreational and athletic facilities suitable for all age groups, provided that the task force would not recommend the construction of a casino in the park and that any recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities is limited to rooftops and parking areas; and

(6) cultural and arts opportunities in the park.

The bill would also direct the task force, no later than nine months after the bill is enacted into law, and after holding at least three public meetings at which members of the public may participate and submit written comments, to submit to the DEP, after consideration of the public comments, recommendations to consider in the development of a master plan that outlines long-term plans and capital projects designed to address the aforementioned issues and provide for the continued maintenance of the park.

The bill would authorize the DEP to utilize the amount of \$50 million appropriated from the federal "Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund" (SFRF) established pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Pub. L. 117-2, and any other similar type of federal law that may be enacted, in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations act, to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force, and approved by the department, primarily to improve recreational, cultural, and transportation activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and wildlife habitats and areas at Liberty State Park.

The bill would expire 24 months after the date of its enactment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

(1) make changes to the bill's findings and declarations;

(2) change the task force to a temporary task force that will expire 24 months after the bill is enacted in to law;

(3) increase the number of members of the task force from 17 to 23 by adding add six public members, two appointed by the Governor, two appointed by the Senate President, and two appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(4) change the designated co-chairs of the task force from the Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Justice and Equity and the Director of Parks and Forestry to the Assistant Commissioner for State Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites and the Administrator of Urban State Parks and Initiatives;

(5) remove a requirement that the master plan include plans for the DEP to generate revenue and other funds, donations, or endowments to ensure adequate reserve funds for the ongoing and future maintenance of the park;

(6) clarify that the task force would not be responsible for submitting a master plan to the DEP but would provide advice and recommendations to the DEP for action items and the master plan;

(7) provide that the task force would not recommend the construction of a casino in the park and that any recommendation for the construction of renewable energy facilities made by the task force would be limited to rooftops and parking areas;

(8) require the task force to hold at least three public meetings at which members of the public may participate and submit written comments, which the task force is required to consider prior to submitting recommendations to the DEP and require that of the three public meetings, one would be required to take place on a weekday in the evening and at least one would be required to take place on a weekend during the day;

(9) add a requirement for the DEP, within 45 days after completion of the master plan for Liberty State Park, to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a written report identifying the additional capital funding priorities for the park; and

(10) delete the \$250 million appropriation from the bill and instead authorize the DEP to utilize the amount of \$50 million appropriated from the federal "Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund" (SFRF) established pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," Pub. L. 117-2, and any other similar type of federal law that may be enacted, in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations act, to support activities identified by the Liberty State Park Design Task Force, and approved by the department, primarily to improve recreational, cultural, and transportation activities and maintain and upgrade scenic and wildlife habitats and areas at Liberty State Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

06/30/2022

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

2944/A-4162 (Sarlo, Ruiz/Freiman, Mosquera, Jaffer, Moriarty, Tully, Swain) - Credits \$5.2 billion to “New Jersey Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund”; appropriates \$2.9 billion to NJ Schools Development Authority, NJ DOT, and NJT; and establishes process for authorizing future appropriations for debt defeasance and capital projects

S-1929/A-3668 (Gopal, Pennacchio/McKeon, Tully, Conaway) - Makes FY 2022 supplemental appropriation to provide State military impact aid to certain school districts

A-4403/S-2915 (Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Cunningham) - Makes FY 2022 supplemental appropriations of \$71,786,000

ACS for A-1522/S-2914 (Moriarty, Mosquera, Jaffer, Freiman, Lampitt, Greenwald/Madden, Gopal) - Establishes annual sales tax holiday for certain retail sales of computers, school computer supplies, school supplies, school art supplies, school instructional materials and sport or recreational equipment.

A-4401/S-2860 (Jaffer, Moriarty, Tully/Gopal, Pou) - Provides one-year waiver of certain MVC fees imposed for driver’s licenses and non-driver identification cards.

S-2861/A-4400 (Madden, Pou/Mosquera, Swain, Wimberly) - Waives fees for marriage and civil union licenses in Fiscal Year 2023; appropriates \$2 million

S-2523/ACS for A-3852 (Ruiz, Cunningham/Reynolds-Jackson, Freiman, Jaffer, Moriarty, Mosquera, Wimberly) - Provides child tax credit under gross income tax

S-2476wGR/A-4179 (Ruiz, Vitale/Coughlin, Jasey, Sumter, Quijano) - Establishes Thriving By Three Act to award competitive grants for infant and toddler child care programs; appropriates \$28 million

A-2359/S-2034 (Tucker, Moen, Haider/Cruz-Perez, Pou) - Provides for streamlining of SNAP application process and establishes SNAP application call center; appropriates \$750,000

A-2360/S-2035 (Reynolds-Jackson, Mukherji, Speight/Cunningham, Ruiz) - Eliminates requirement that participation in NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program is mandatory for certain recipients

A-2361/S-2016 (Jimenez, Sumter, Timberlake/Zwicker, Ruiz) - Requires DHS to maintain SNAP outreach plan and to conduct additional outreach programs

A-2362/S-2036 (Freiman, Mosquera, Quijano/Johnson, Ruiz) - Requires DHS to submit federal waiver request regarding time limits for certain SNAP recipients under certain circumstances

A-2363/S-2033 (Stanley, Mejia, Lopez/Pou, Ruiz) - Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services and county welfare agencies; appropriates \$250,000

A-2364/S-2017 (Spearman, Pintor Marin, Atkins/Greenstein, Ruiz) - Appropriates \$813,000 to DHS to implement use of electronic benefit transfer cards in Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

A-2366/SCS for S-2156 (McKnight, Carter, Verrelli/Lagana, Pou) - Establishes State SNAP Minimum Benefit Program; appropriates \$18 million to DHS

A-2008/S-352 (Conaway, Verrelli, Benson/Gopal, Madden) - Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care

S-2872/A-4399 (Scutari, Ruiz/Carter, Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Wimberly) - Establishes Behavioral Healthcare Provider Loan Redemption Program within Higher Education Student Assistance Authority; appropriates \$5 million

SCS for S-311/ACS for A-2036 (Vitale, Gopal/Benson, Verrelli, Conaway) - Establishes Statewide behavioral health crisis system of care

SCS for S-722 and 785/ACS for A-998 (Codey, Singleton/Reynolds-Jackson, Stanley, Jaffer) - Codifies and expands ARRIVE Together Pilot Program to make certain mental health services available to police responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2 million

S-2909/ACS for A-4374 (Diegnan/Benson, Pintor Marin, McKnight) - Authorizes DOT to compensate contractors and subcontractors affected by supply chain shortages; appropriates \$10 million

A-4405/S-2943 (Benson, Wimberly, Moen/Diegnan) - Concerns New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority; increases Transportation Trust Fund spending limit by \$600 million

A-674/S-1646 (Verrelli, McKnight, McKeon/Ruiz, Pou) - Establishes New Jersey Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program

A-3733/S-488 (Haider, Stanley, Benson/Scutari, Beach) - Authorizes student attending institution of higher education to earn credit towards graduation for serving as poll worker

ACS for A-3990/SCS for S-2593 (Stanley, Tully, Karabinchak/Diegnan, Corrado) - Provides temporary one-year extension of service life of school buses for 2022-2023 school year; authorizes chief administrator to allow one-year extension in subsequent two school years

A-4208/S-2791 (Pintor Marin, Quijano, Speight/Ruiz, Cruz-Perez) - Provides sales and use tax exemption for certain purchases made by all supermarkets and grocery stores located within urban enterprise zones

A2426/S513 (Wimberly, Reynolds-Jackson, Schaer/Cryan, Turner) - Establishes rebuttable presumption of pretrial detention for defendants who commit certain firearm offenses under Graves Act

A-4385/S-2933 (Conaway/Cryan) - Makes various revisions to law pertaining to electronic medical records and recording patients' demographic information

S-2807/A-246 (Stack, Sacco, Cunningham/McKnight, Sampson, Chaparro) - Establishes Liberty State Park Design Task Force

S-2917/A-4395 (Cruz-Perez, Stack/Pintor Marin, Freiman, Reynolds-Jackson) - Expands allowance for developers to carry forward unused tax credits under New Jersey Aspire Program

S-2921/A-4365 (Zwicker, Pou/Coughlin, Verrelli, Spearman) - Revises various provisions of Food Desert Relief Program

S-2945/ACS for A-4392 (Scutari/Pintor Marin, Sumter, Quijano, McKnight) - Concerns economic incentives for certain cannabis businesses

S-2023/A-4402 (Sarlo, Cunningham/Pintor Marin, Wimberly) - LINE ITEM - Appropriates \$50,638,729,000 in State funds and \$24,082,639,850 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2022-2023

[Copy of Statement](#)

Governor Murphy signed the following bills today, which were sent to his desk yesterday, conditionally vetoed, and then passed in concurrence with the Governor's recommendations:

S-2476/A-4179 (Ruiz, Vitale/Coughlin, Jasey, Sumter, Quijano) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes Thriving By Three Act to award competitive grants for infant and toddler child care programs; appropriates \$28 million

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-4403/S-2915 (Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Cunningham) – CONDITIONAL - Makes FY 2022 supplemental appropriations of \$71,786,000

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