

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

§2
C.18A:64I-5
§3
Repealer

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 116, *approved October 21, 2022*
Assembly, No. 3149, (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey School of Conservation and
2 amending, supplementing, and repealing various sections of
3 P.L.1981, c.148.

4

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

7

8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1981, c.148 (C.18A:64I-1) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. The 240 acre tract of land known as the New Jersey School
11 of Conservation, located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex county,
12 New Jersey, together with all the buildings thereon, and under the
13 management and control of the Division of Parks **[,] and** Forestry
14 **[and Recreation]** in the Department of Environmental Protection,
15 shall be used in perpetuity as a school for environmental field study
16 under the direction of **[the Board of Trustees of Montclair State**
17 **University]** the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation,
18 a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. ¹Within 60 days of enactment,
19 the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation will enter
20 into a lease or similar agreement with the Department of
21 Environmental Protection upon such terms as are customary for the
22 Department of Environmental Protection's administration of state
23 lands or other residential facilities and as otherwise agreed upon by
24 the parties.¹

25 (cf: P.L.2017, c.178, s.42)

26

27 2. (New section) a. No later than January 15 of each year, the
28 Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation shall submit to
29 the ¹**[Commissioner of Education]** Governor, Commissioner of
30 Environmental Protection, and the Legislature¹ a financial
31 statement that contains all available revenue and expenditure
32 figures for the New Jersey School of Conservation during the
33 current fiscal year and an estimate of revenue and expenditure
34 figures for the subsequent fiscal year, including a requested amount
35 for State funding for the subsequent fiscal year.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations September 29, 2022.

1 b. ~~1~~【The Commissioner of Education shall include an
2 appropriate amount of funding to maintain and support the New
3 Jersey School of Conservation in the school aid portion of the
4 Department of Education's annual budget request.】~~1~~ The
5 Department of ~~1~~【Education】 Environmental Protection~~1~~ shall
6 ~~1~~【grant】 provide~~1~~ all moneys appropriated ~~1~~【for this purpose】~~1~~ by
7 an annual appropriations act ~~1~~【for the maintenance and support of
8 the New Jersey School of Conservation】~~1~~ to the Friends of the New
9 Jersey School of Conservation, which shall expend the funds for the
10 expenses necessary for the operation of the New Jersey School of
11 Conservation, including maintenance of the grounds and buildings,
12 purchase of equipment, funding educational programs, and housing
13 students and teachers.

14
15 3. Sections 2 and 3 of P.L.1981, c.148 (C.18A:64I-2 and
16 C.18A:64I-3) are repealed.

17
18 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

19

20

21

22

23 Changes entity responsible for management of NJ School of
24 Conservation to nonprofit organization, and directs DOE to request
25 funding for center annually.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3149

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jasey, Senators Ruiz, Gill, Zwicker and Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Changes entity responsible for management of NJ School of Conservation to nonprofit organization, and directs DOE to request funding for center annually.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/29/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey School of Conservation and
2 amending, supplementing, and repealing various sections of
3 P.L.1981, c.148.

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11 of Conservation, located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex county,
12 New Jersey, together with all the buildings thereon, and under the
13 management and control of the Division of Parks **[,] and** Forestry
14 **[and Recreation]** in the Department of Environmental Protection,
15 shall be used in perpetuity as a school for environmental field study
16 under the direction of **[the Board of Trustees of Montclair State**
17 **University]** the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation,
18 a tax-exempt nonprofit organization.
19 (cf: P.L.2017, c.178, s.42)
20

21 2. (New section) a. No later than January 15 of each year, the
22 Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation shall submit to
23 the Commissioner of Education a financial statement that contains
24 all available revenue and expenditure figures for the New Jersey
25 School of Conservation during the current fiscal year and an
26 estimate of revenue and expenditure figures for the subsequent
27 fiscal year, including a requested amount for State funding for the
28 subsequent fiscal year.

29 b. The Commissioner of Education shall include an appropriate
30 amount of funding to maintain and support the New Jersey School
31 of Conservation in the school aid portion of the Department of
32 Education's annual budget request. The Department of Education
33 shall grant all moneys appropriated for this purpose by an annual
34 appropriations act to the Friends of the New Jersey School of
35 Conservation, which shall expend the funds for the expenses
36 necessary for the operation of the New Jersey School of
37 Conservation, including maintenance of the grounds and buildings,
38 purchase of equipment, funding educational programs, and housing
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STATEMENT

This bill would change the management of the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC), located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a nonprofit organization.

The bill would also direct the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation to submit financial figures and a request for State funding to the Department of Education (DOE) no later than January 15 of each year. The bill would also direct the DOE to include an appropriate amount to maintain the operations of the NJSOC in the school aid portion of its annual budget request. Finally, the bill would repeal the sections of law that require the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University to request and expend funding for the NJSOC.

Originally established in 1949, the NJSOC is the oldest and the largest university-based environmental education facility in the nation, and some of its buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It has served as a school for environmental field studies for K-12 students, college students, graduate students, and teachers. In 1981, Governor Brendan Byrne enacted a law that permanently designated the NJSOC as a school for environmental field study under the direction of the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University. However, in May 2020, Montclair State announced that it was no longer financially viable for the university to administer the school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it would transfer all control of the grounds back to the DEP.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3149

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 16, 2022

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3149.

This bill would change the management of the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC), located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a nonprofit organization.

The bill would direct the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation to submit financial figures and a request for State funding to the Department of Education (DOE) no later than January 15 of each year. The bill would also direct the DOE to include an appropriate amount to maintain the operations of the NJSOC in the school aid portion of its annual budget request. Finally, the bill would repeal the sections of law that require the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University to request and expend funding for the NJSOC.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3149

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3149.

This bill would change the management of the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC), located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a nonprofit organization.

The bill would also direct the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation to submit financial figures and a request for State funding to the Department of Education (DOE) no later than January 15 of each year. The bill would also direct the DOE to include an appropriate amount to maintain the operations of the NJSOC in the school aid portion of its annual budget request. Finally, the bill would repeal the sections of law that require the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University to request and expend funding for the NJSOC.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal information is available on this bill.

SENATE, No. 438

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Changes entity responsible for management of NJ School of Conservation to nonprofit organization, and directs DOE to request funding for center annually.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2022)

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14 **[and Recreation]** in the Department of Environmental Protection,
15 shall be used in perpetuity as a school for environmental field study
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17 **University]** the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation,
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30 amount of funding to maintain and support the New Jersey School
31 of Conservation in the school aid portion of the Department of
32 Education's annual budget request. The Department of Education
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34 appropriations act to the Friends of the New Jersey School of
35 Conservation, which shall expend the funds for the expenses
36 necessary for the operation of the New Jersey School of
37 Conservation, including maintenance of the grounds and buildings,
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SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 438

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 14, 2022

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 438.

This bill would change the management of the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC), located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a nonprofit organization.

The bill would also direct the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation to submit financial figures and a request for State funding to the Department of Education (DOE) no later than January 15 of each year. The bill would also direct the DOE to include an appropriate amount to maintain the operations of the NJSOC in the school aid portion of its annual budget request. Finally, the bill would repeal the sections of law that require the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University to request and expend funding for the NJSOC.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 438

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 438.

This bill would change the management of the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC), located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a nonprofit organization.

The bill would also direct the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation to submit financial figures and a request for State funding to the Department of Education (DOE) no later than January 15 of each year. The bill would also direct the DOE to include an appropriate amount to maintain the operations of the NJSOC in the school aid portion of its annual budget request. Finally, the bill would repeal the sections of law that require the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University to request and expend funding for the NJSOC.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

09/15/2022

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

A-2021/S-1138 (Conaway, Benson/Gopal) - Requires embryo storage facilities to record and report health information of patients in manner that is consistent with certain federal laws

A-3329/S-994 (McKnight/Ruiz) - Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect and publish certain local and public utility service and customer information

A-3694/S-1800 (Moen, McKnight/Gopal, Stanfield) - Establishes “Purple Star Schools Program” in DOE to recognize schools which emphasize importance of assisting children of military families

A-4127/S-2743 (Stanley, Spearman, Murphy/Greenstein, Singleton) - Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for professional firefighters not enrolled in SHBP; makes appropriation

A-4254/S-2852 (Coughlin, Karabinchak, Kennedy, Lopez/Diegnan) - Excludes electricity supplied to recycled materials manufacturing facilities from renewable energy portfolio standards

A-4373/S-2900 (Calabrese, Speight/Sarlo) - Permits municipal emergency management coordinators to reside within reasonable proximity to municipality in which they are employed

AJR-57/SJR-47 (Moen, Mukherji, Dancer/Beach, Cruz-Perez) - Expresses support for commissioning of SSN-796, U.S.S. New Jersey, in New Jersey

The Governor vetoed the following bills:

A-793/S-1427 (Timberlake, Tucker, Reynolds-Jackson/Gill, Turner) – **CONDITIONAL** - Creates “Community Wealth Preservation Program”; expands access for certain buyers to purchase property from sheriff’s sales

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-3149/S-438 (McKeon, Dancer, Benson/Smith, Codey) - **CONDITIONAL** - Changes entity responsible for management of NJ School of Conservation to nonprofit organization, and directs DOE to request funding for center annually

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-4101/S-2666 (Lopez, Coughlin/Vitale, Corrado) - **CONDITIONAL** - Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into "Next-of-Kin Registry

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-4107/S-2768 (Schaer, Conaway, Verrelli/Vitale, Singer) - **CONDITIONAL** - Makes various changes concerning regulation of emergency medical services; establishes mobile integrated health program and new State Emergency Medical Services Medical Director in DOH

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-2676/S-1212 (McClellan/Testa) – **ABSOLUTE** - Revises permitting thresholds for certain types of development requiring CAFRA permit from DEP

September 15, 2022

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3149

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 3149 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would amend N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-1 to change the management of the New Jersey School of Conservation ("NJSOC") from Montclair State University ("MSU") to the Friends of the NJSOC ("Friends"), a non-profit entity.

Originally established in 1949, the NJSOC is the oldest and largest university-based environmental education facility in the nation. The NJSOC has served as a school for environmental field studies for K-12 students, college students, graduate students, and teachers. The buildings and grounds of the NJSOC are within the Stokes State Forest in Sussex County and are owned by the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP").

P.L.1981, c.148, N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-1 et seq., permanently designated the NJSOC as a school for environmental field study under the direction of the Board of Trustees of MSU. The Friends was established soon thereafter in 1987 as a nonprofit entity dedicated to coordinating volunteer-run projects and programs and assisting with financial support for the NJSOC.

In May 2020, MSU announced that it was no longer financially viable for the university to administer the NJSOC and transferred all control of the grounds back to the DEP. In recognition of the importance of the NJSOC in educating the next generation of environmental stewards, my Administration was pleased to partner with the Legislature and the Friends to keep the NJSOC open under these challenging circumstances.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, supported by an appropriation of \$1 million and pursuant to an interim agreement with DEP, the Friends operated day programs at the NJSOC for school

children and university students. While this work has been instrumental in keeping the mission of the NJSOC alive, it is important that there be long-term certainty with respect to the management and operation of the NJSOC, and the process by which the school receives financial support from the State.

In addition to changing the management of the NJSOC from MSU to the Friends, this bill would direct the Department of Education ("DOE") to include an appropriate amount to maintain the operations of the NJSOC in the school aid portion of its annual budget request. In support of the DOE's budget request, the bill would also direct the Friends to submit financial figures and a request for state funding to the DOE no later than January 15 of each year. Finally, the bill would repeal sections of law that require the Board of Trustees of MSU to request and expend funding for the NJSOC.

While I fully support the sponsors' intention of vesting permanent responsibility for the management of the NJSOC in the Friends and ensuring adequate funding to support the NJSOC's operations, several changes to the bill are necessary to ensure that the NJSOC can operate as effectively as possible. First, in order to make clear that DEP, as the state agency with ownership of the NJSOC property, has the authority to set appropriate conditions for the Friends' management of the NJSOC, I am recommending that the legislation direct DEP and the Friends to enter into a lease with respect to the management of the property. To ensure that the Friends can begin operating the NJSOC in a timely fashion, the parties will have no more than 60 days from the enactment of the legislation to execute the lease. Second, because DEP will continue to own the underlying property and will hold the lease with the Friends, I am recommending that funding for the NJSOC be included in DEP's budget rather than DOE's.

Finally, I am recommending other minor revisions to the bill's funding provisions to better reflect the annual budget process.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3149 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 18: After "organization." insert "Within 60 days of enactment, the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation will enter into a lease or similar agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection upon such terms as are customary for the Department of Environmental Protection's administration of state lands or other residential facilities and as otherwise agreed upon by the parties."

Page 2, Section 2, Line 23: Delete "Commissioner of Education" and insert "Governor, Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and the Legislature"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 29: Delete "The Commissioner of Education shall include an appropriate"

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 30-31: Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 2, Line 32: Delete "Education's annual budget request."

Page 2, Section 2, Line 32: After "of" delete "Education" and insert "Environmental Protection"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 33: Delete "grant" and insert "provide"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 33: Delete "for this purpose"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 34: After "act" insert "for the maintenance and support of the New Jersey School of Conservation"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3149

To the General Assembly:

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- Page 2, Section 2, Line 23: Delete "Commissioner of Education" and insert "Governor, Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and the Legislature"
- Page 2, Section 2, Line 29: Delete "The Commissioner of Education shall include an appropriate"
- Page 2, Section 2, Lines 30-31: Delete in their entirety
- Page 2, Section 2, Line 32: Delete "Education's annual budget request."
- Page 2, Section 2, Line 32: After "of" delete "Education" and insert "Environmental Protection"
- Page 2, Section 2, Line 33: Delete "grant" and insert "provide"
- Page 2, Section 2, Line 33: Delete "for this purpose"
- Page 2, Section 2, Line 34: After "act" insert "for the maintenance and support of the New Jersey School of Conservation"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor