

**4:10-80**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2022                    **CHAPTER:** 141

**NJSA:** 4:10-80 (Establishes Organic Farming Board in Department of Agriculture.)

**BILL NO:** A3444                    (Substituted for S3140 (1R))

**SPONSOR(S)** Roy Freiman and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 3/8/2022

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Agriculture and Food Security

**SENATE:** Economic Growth

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**    **ASSEMBLY:** 6/29/2022

**SENATE:** 11/21/2022

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 1/10/2023

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (First Reprint enacted)                    Yes

**A3444**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)                    Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**    **ASSEMBLY:**                    Yes

**SENATE:**                    Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                    No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                    No

**S3140 (1R)**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)                    Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**    **ASSEMBLY:**                    No

**SENATE:**                    Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                    No

**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:** No

end

Title 4.  
Chapter 10.  
Article 7.  
(Rename)  
Organic Farming  
§1  
C.4:10-80

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 141, *approved January 10, 2023*  
Assembly, No. 3444 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning organic farming and supplementing Title 4 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. There is established in the Division of Marketing and  
8 Development in the Department of Agriculture the Organic Farming  
9 <sup>1</sup>**[Advisory]**<sup>1</sup> Board.

10 a. The purpose of the board shall be to <sup>1</sup>**[advise]** develop,  
11 administer, and oversee programs in consultation with<sup>1</sup> the  
12 Department of Agriculture on topics related to organic farming,  
13 including the certification program established pursuant to  
14 P.L.2003, c.176 (4:10-79), the federal organic farming certification  
15 program implemented by the United States Department of  
16 Agriculture, best practices for organic <sup>1</sup>and regenerative<sup>1</sup> farming,  
17 incentives to encourage more organic <sup>1</sup>and regenerative<sup>1</sup> farming in  
18 the State, <sup>1</sup>**[and]**<sup>1</sup> new techniques to carry out organic <sup>1</sup>and  
19 regenerative<sup>1</sup> farming <sup>1</sup>, and programs to provide outreach,  
20 education, and marketing support to organic and regenerative farms  
21 in New Jersey<sup>1</sup>.

22 b. The board shall consist of seven members as follows:

23 (1) <sup>1</sup>**[**the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee,  
24 who shall serve ex officio as chairperson; and

25 (2) six public members, to be appointed by the Governor, with  
26 experience or expertise in organic farming. To the maximum extent  
27 practicable and feasible, the public members shall be chosen to  
28 provide geographical representation. <sup>1</sup>**]** two certified organic farmers  
29 to be appointed by the Governor;

30 (2) two organic farmers from historically underserved  
31 communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall  
32 be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one  
33 of whom shall be recommended by the Senate President;

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAN committee amendments adopted June 13, 2022.

1       (3) one regenerative farmer, to be appointed by the Governor;  
2 and

3       (4) two organic trade representatives to be appointed by the  
4 Governor.<sup>1</sup>

5       c. <sup>1</sup>The chairperson shall be a member of the board and shall  
6 be elected by the board for a term of three years.<sup>1</sup> The public  
7 members shall serve for terms of three years and may be  
8 reappointed and may serve until a successor has been appointed. Of  
9 the public members first appointed, <sup>1</sup>~~two~~ three<sup>1</sup> shall be  
10 appointed for terms of three years, two shall be appointed for terms  
11 of two years, and two shall be appointed for a term of one year.  
12 Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled in the  
13 same manner provided for the original appointments.

14       d. The board shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
15 appointment of a majority of its members. The chairperson shall  
16 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The  
17 board shall meet <sup>1</sup>~~at the call of the chairperson, or when requested~~  
18 ~~by a majority of its members, at those times and places within the~~  
19 ~~State as the chairperson shall determine~~ quarterly in different  
20 regions of the State as determined by the chairperson in  
21 consultation with other members of the board. The board shall  
22 invite organizations, including, but not limited to, the Northeast  
23 Organic Farming Association of New Jersey, the Foodshed  
24 Alliance, North Jersey RC and D, the Natural Resources  
25 Conservation Service in the United States Department of  
26 Agriculture, or other agricultural organizations and farmers in order  
27 to enhance the public process, provided that a representative of the  
28 agricultural organization or a farmer is not serving as an organic  
29 trade representative on the board<sup>1</sup>.

30       e. The public members shall serve without compensation but  
31 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
32 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
33 to the board.

34       f. The board shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
35 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
36 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
37 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

38       g. The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to  
39 the board <sup>1</sup>and the board shall be entitled to call to its assistance  
40 other State representatives or specialists as necessary<sup>1</sup>.

41       h. Every <sup>1</sup>~~three~~ two<sup>1</sup> years, the board shall submit a written  
42 report on the status of organic farming in the State, including any  
43 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action, to the  
44 Governor and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
45 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall also be posted on the  
46 Department of Agriculture's Internet website.

1     <sup>1</sup>i. The board shall report monthly to the State Board of  
2 Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture on any actions taken,  
3 needs of the board, achievements, and updates within the organic  
4 farming community. The board may submit quarterly reports  
5 directly to the Department of Agriculture, and the department shall  
6 respond with a follow-up response within 30 days after the  
7 submission of the quarterly report.

8     j. As used in this section:  
9     “Regenerative farming” means farming and grazing practices  
10 that (a) prioritize soil health and ecosystem health, (b) reduce  
11 reliance on synthetic inputs, (c) reverse climate change by  
12 rebuilding soil organic matter, sequestering carbon, and restoring  
13 degraded soil biodiversity, and (d) engage in conservation practices  
14 to ensure the long-term health of the farm’s ecosystem, among  
15 many benefits.

16     “Organic trade representative” means a representative of an  
17 individual, or a not-for-profit or for-profit partnership, corporation,  
18 association, cooperative, or entity, who is legally registered and  
19 operating in the State, who engages in the business of aggregating,  
20 processing, and distributing organic fiber, feeds, and other organic  
21 agricultural-based supply and consumer products, including any  
22 commodity or product derived from organic livestock, that is  
23 marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption,  
24 or who directly engages with, or supports and advocates for,  
25 organic and regenerative farmers in New Jersey.<sup>1</sup>

26  
27     2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
28  
29  
30

31  
32     Establishes Organic Farming Board in Department of  
33 Agriculture.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3444**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 8, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Organic Farming Advisory Board in Department of Agriculture.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning organic farming and supplementing Title 4 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. There is established in the Division of Marketing and  
8 Development in the Department of Agriculture the Organic Farming  
9 Advisory Board.

10 a. The purpose of the board shall be to advise the Department  
11 of Agriculture on topics related to organic farming, including the  
12 certification program established pursuant to P.L.2003, c.176 (4:10-  
13 79), the federal organic farming certification program implemented  
14 by the United States Department of Agriculture, best practices for  
15 organic farming, incentives to encourage more organic farming in  
16 the State, and new techniques to carry out organic farming.

17 b. The board shall consist of seven members as follows:

18 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee, who  
19 shall serve ex officio as chairperson; and

20 (2) six public members, to be appointed by the Governor, with  
21 experience or expertise in organic farming. To the maximum extent  
22 practicable and feasible, the public members shall be chosen to  
23 provide geographical representation.

24 c. The public members shall serve for terms of three years and  
25 may be reappointed and may serve until a successor has been  
26 appointed. Of the public members first appointed, two shall be  
27 appointed for terms of three years, two shall be appointed for terms  
28 of two years, and two shall be appointed for a term of one year.  
29 Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled in the  
30 same manner provided for the original appointments.

31 d. The board shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
32 appointment of a majority of its members. The chairperson shall  
33 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The  
34 board shall meet at the call of the chairperson, or when requested by  
35 a majority of its members, at those times and places within the State  
36 as the chairperson shall determine.

37 e. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
38 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
39 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
40 to the board.

41 f. The board shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
42 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
43 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
44 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

45 g. The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to  
46 the board.

47 h. Every three years, the board shall submit a written report on  
48 the status of organic farming in the State, including any

1 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action, to the  
2 Governor and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
3 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall also be posted on the  
4 Department of Agriculture 's Internet website.

5

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

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#### STATEMENT

10

11 This bill would establish an Organic Farming Advisory Board in  
12 the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The purpose of the board  
13 would be to advise the DOA on topics related to organic farming.  
14 The board would consist of the Secretary of Agriculture, or the  
15 Secretary's designee, who would serve ex officio as chairperson,  
16 and six public members, to be appointed by the Governor, with  
17 experience or expertise in organic farming. The public members  
18 would serve without compensation.

19 The bill would also direct the board to submit a report to the  
20 Governor and the Legislature every three years on the status of  
21 organic farming in the State, including any recommendations for  
22 legislative or regulatory action.

23 Organic farming, also known as organic agriculture, is a process  
24 of growing agricultural products through farming techniques that  
25 help ensure the health and well-being of the soil, plants, animals,  
26 and people. The National Organic Program (NOP) is a regulatory  
27 program within the United States Department of Agriculture  
28 (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service responsible for developing  
29 national standards for organically produced agricultural products.  
30 The certification program ensures organic foods are grown and  
31 processed according to federal guidelines addressing, among many  
32 factors, soil quality, animal raising practices, pest and weed control,  
33 and the use of additives. In 2003, the DOA established the State's  
34 organic certification program, which complies with NOP's  
35 standards. The DOA is the only accredited national organic  
36 certification agent in the State and has certified approximately 60  
37 farms in the State.

38 The ecologically protective practices of organic farming  
39 contribute to enhanced ecosystem services and benefit water  
40 quality, soil health, and biodiversity. Furthermore, organic farmers  
41 feed the soil with organic matter instead of ammonia and other  
42 synthetic fertilizers, which has been shown to increase nutrient  
43 levels in produce.



ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 3444**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3444.

This bill, as amended, would establish an Organic Farming Board in the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The purpose of the board would be to develop, administer, and oversee programs in consultation with the DOA on topics related to organic and regenerative farming. The board would consist of seven public members serving without compensation as follows: 1) two certified organic farmers to be appointed by the Governor; 2) two organic farmers from historically underserved communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom will be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one of whom will be recommended by the Senate President; 3) one regenerative farmer, to be appointed by the Governor; and 4) two organic trade representatives to be appointed by the Governor.

The bill, as amended, defines “regenerative farming” as farming and grazing practices that (a) prioritize soil health and ecosystem health, (b) reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, (c) reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter, sequestering carbon, and restoring degraded soil biodiversity, and (d) engage in conservation practices to ensure the long-term health of the farm’s ecosystem, among many benefits. “Organic trade representative” is defined as a representative of an individual, or a not-for-profit or for-profit partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or entity, who is legally registered and operating in the State, who engages in the business of aggregating, processing, and distributing organic fiber, feeds, and other organic agricultural-based supply and consumer products, including any commodity or product derived from organic livestock, that is marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption, or who directly engages with, or supports and advocates for, organic and regenerative farmers in New Jersey.

The bill, as amended, directs the board to meet quarterly in different regions of the State and establishes reporting requirements for the board.

The bill, as amended, directs the board to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature every two years on the status of organic farming in the State, including any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action. Furthermore, the board is required to report monthly to the State Board of Agriculture and the DOA on any actions taken, needs of the board, achievements, and updates within the organic farming community. Finally, the board may submit quarterly reports directly to the DOA, and the DOA is required to respond with a follow-up response within 30 days after the submission of the quarterly report.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

- 1) authorize the board to develop, administer, and oversee programs in consultation with the Department of Agriculture;
- 2) expand the programs to be developed, administered and overseen by the board to include those related to regenerative farming and outreach, education, and marketing support to organic and regenerative farms in New Jersey;
- 3) add definitions of “regenerative farming” and “organic trade representative” to the bill;
- 4) change the composition of the seven-member board to: (a) two certified organic farmers, one regenerative farmer, and two organic trade representatives, all to be appointed by the Governor, and (b) two organic farmers from historically underserved communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom to be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one of whom to be recommended by the Senate President;
- 5) change the board chairperson to be a member of the board, elected by the board for a term of three years;
- 6) provide that three of the public members first appointed will be appointed for terms of three years;
- 7) require the board to meet quarterly in different regions of the State as determined by the chairperson in consultation with other members of the board;
- 8) direct the board to invite agricultural organizations and farmers to enhance the public process;
- 9) prohibit invitations to a representative of an agricultural organization or a farmer if the individual is serving as trade representative on the board;
- 10) require the board’s written report to the Governor and Legislature on the status of organic farming in the State to be made every two years instead of three;
- 11) require monthly reports by the board to the State Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture on any actions taken, needs of the board, achievements, and updates within the organic farming community;

12) authorize quarterly reports from the board directly to the Department of Agriculture;

13) require the Department of Agriculture to respond to any direct quarterly report within 30 days after the submission of the report; and

14) make other technical and clarifying corrections.

# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3444**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3444 (1R).

As reported, this bill would establish an Organic Farming Board in the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The purpose of the board would be to develop, administer, and oversee programs, in consultation with the DOA, on topics related to organic and regenerative farming. The board would consist of seven public members serving without compensation as follows: (1) two certified organic farmers to be appointed by the Governor; (2) two organic farmers from historically underserved communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom will be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one of whom will be recommended by the Senate President; (3) one regenerative farmer to be appointed by the Governor; and (4) two organic trade representatives to be appointed by the Governor.

The bill defines “regenerative farming” as farming and grazing practices that (1) prioritize soil health and ecosystem health; (2) reduce reliance on synthetic inputs; (3) reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter, sequestering carbon, and restoring degraded soil biodiversity; and (4) engage in conservation practices to ensure the long-term health of the farm’s ecosystem, among many benefits. “Organic trade representative” is defined as a representative of an individual, or a not-for-profit or for-profit partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or entity, who is legally registered and operating in the State, who engages in the business of aggregating, processing, and distributing organic fiber, feeds, and other organic agricultural-based supply and consumer products, including any commodity or product derived from organic livestock, that is marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption, or who directly engages with, or supports and advocates for, organic and regenerative farmers in New Jersey.

Under the bill, the board would be required to meet quarterly in different regions of the State and fulfill certain reporting requirements set forth in the bill. Specifically, the bill directs the board to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature every two years concerning the status of organic farming in the State, including any

recommendations for legislative or regulatory action. Furthermore, the board would be required to report to the State Board of Agriculture and the DOA, on a monthly basis, concerning any actions taken by the board, any needs of the board, as well as any updates within the organic farming community. The bill also allows the board to submit quarterly reports directly to the DOA, after which the DOA would be required to respond within 30 days after the submission of the quarterly report.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3140, which was amended and reported by the committee on this date.

**SENATE, No. 3140**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANDREW ZWICKER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Organic Farming Board in Department of Agriculture.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**S3140 ZWICKER**

2

1 **AN ACT** concerning organic farming and supplementing Title 4 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. There is established in the Division of Marketing and  
8 Development in the Department of Agriculture the Organic Farming  
9 Board.

10 a. The purpose of the board shall be to develop, administer,  
11 and oversee programs in consultation with the Department of  
12 Agriculture on topics related to organic farming, including the  
13 certification program established pursuant to P.L.2003, c.176 (4:10-  
14 79), the federal organic farming certification program implemented  
15 by the United States Department of Agriculture, best practices for  
16 organic and regenerative farming, incentives to encourage more  
17 organic and regenerative farming in the State, new techniques to  
18 carry out organic and regenerative farming, and programs to  
19 provide outreach, education, and marketing support to organic and  
20 regenerative farms in New Jersey.

21 b. The board shall consist of seven members as follows:

22 (1) two certified organic farmers to be appointed by the  
23 Governor;

24 (2) two organic farmers from historically underserved  
25 communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall  
26 be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one  
27 of whom shall be recommended by the Senate President;

28 (3) one regenerative farmer, to be appointed by the Governor;  
29 and

30 (4) two organic trade representatives to be appointed by the  
31 Governor.

32 c. The chairperson shall be a member of the board and shall be  
33 elected by the board for a term of three years. The public members  
34 shall serve for terms of three years and may be reappointed and may  
35 serve until a successor has been appointed. Of the public members  
36 first appointed, three shall be appointed for terms of three years,  
37 two shall be appointed for terms of two years, and two shall be  
38 appointed for a term of one year. Vacancies in the membership of  
39 the board shall be filled in the same manner provided for the  
40 original appointments.

41 d. The board shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
42 appointment of a majority of its members. The chairperson shall  
43 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The  
44 board shall meet quarterly in different regions of the State as  
45 determined by the chairperson in consultation with other members  
46 of the board. The board shall invite organizations, including, but  
47 not limited to, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New  
48 Jersey, the Foodshed Alliance, North Jersey RC and D, the Natural

**S3140 ZWICKER**

1 Resources Conservation Service in the United States Department of  
2 Agriculture, or other agricultural organizations and farmers in order  
3 to enhance the public process, provided that a representative of the  
4 agricultural organization or a farmer is not serving as an organic  
5 trade representative on the board.

6 e. The public members shall serve without compensation but  
7 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
8 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
9 to the board.

10 f. The board shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
11 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
12 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
13 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

14 g. The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to  
15 the board and the board shall be entitled to call to its assistance  
16 other State representatives or specialists as necessary.

17 h. Every two years, the board shall submit a written report on  
18 the status of organic farming in the State, including any  
19 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action, to the  
20 Governor and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
21 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall also be posted on the  
22 Department of Agriculture's Internet website.

23 i. The board shall report monthly to the State Board of  
24 Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture on any actions taken,  
25 needs of the board, achievements, and updates within the organic  
26 farming community. The board may submit quarterly reports  
27 directly to the Department of Agriculture, and the department shall  
28 respond with a follow-up response within 30 days after the  
29 submission of the quarterly report.

30 j. As used in this section:

31 "Organic trade representative" means a representative of an  
32 individual, or a not-for-profit or for-profit partnership, corporation,  
33 association, cooperative, or entity, who is legally registered and  
34 operating in the State, who engages in the business of aggregating,  
35 processing, and distributing organic fiber, feeds, and other organic  
36 agricultural-based supply and consumer products, including any  
37 commodity or product derived from organic livestock, that is  
38 marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption,  
39 or who directly engages with, or supports and advocates for,  
40 organic and regenerative farmers in New Jersey.

41 "Regenerative farming" means farming and grazing practices  
42 that (a) prioritize soil health and ecosystem health, (b) reduce  
43 reliance on synthetic inputs, (c) reverse climate change by  
44 rebuilding soil organic matter, sequestering carbon, and restoring  
45 degraded soil biodiversity, and (d) engage in conservation practices  
46 to ensure the long-term health of the farm's ecosystem, among  
47 many benefits.



**S3140 ZWICKER**

1       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6       This bill would establish an Organic Farming Board in the  
7 Department of Agriculture (DOA). The purpose of the board would  
8 be to develop, administer, and oversee programs in consultation  
9 with the DOA on topics related to organic and regenerative farming.  
10 The board would consist of seven public members serving without  
11 compensation as follows: 1) two certified organic farmers to be  
12 appointed by the Governor; 2) two organic farmers from  
13 historically underserved communities to be appointed by the  
14 Governor, one of whom will be recommended by the Speaker of the  
15 General Assembly and one of whom will be recommended by the  
16 Senate President; 3) one regenerative farmer, to be appointed by the  
17 Governor; and 4) two organic trade representatives to be appointed  
18 by the Governor.

19       The bill defines “regenerative farming” as farming and grazing  
20 practices that (a) prioritize soil health and ecosystem health, (b)  
21 reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, (c) reverse climate change by  
22 rebuilding soil organic matter, sequestering carbon, and restoring  
23 degraded soil biodiversity, and (d) engage in conservation practices  
24 to ensure the long-term health of the farm’s ecosystem, among  
25 many benefits. “Organic trade representative” is defined as a  
26 representative of an individual, or a not-for-profit or for-profit  
27 partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or entity, who is  
28 legally registered and operating in the State, who engages in the  
29 business of aggregating, processing, and distributing organic fiber,  
30 feeds, and other organic agricultural-based supply and consumer  
31 products, including any commodity or product derived from organic  
32 livestock, that is marketed in the United States for human or  
33 livestock consumption, or who directly engages with, or supports  
34 and advocates for, organic and regenerative farmers in New Jersey.

35       The bill directs the board to meet quarterly in different regions of  
36 the State and establishes reporting requirements for the board.

37       The bill directs the board to submit a report to the Governor and  
38 the Legislature every two years on the status of organic farming in  
39 the State, including any recommendations for legislative or  
40 regulatory action. Furthermore, the board is required to report  
41 monthly to the State Board of Agriculture and the DOA on any  
42 actions taken, needs of the board, achievements, and updates within  
43 the organic farming community. Finally, the board may submit  
44 quarterly reports directly to the DOA, and the DOA is required to  
45 respond with a follow-up response within 30 days after the  
46 submission of the quarterly report.

# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3140**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3140, with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill would establish an Organic Farming Board in the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The purpose of the board would be to develop, administer, and oversee programs, in consultation with the DOA, on topics related to organic and regenerative farming. The board would consist of seven public members serving without compensation as follows: (1) two certified organic farmers to be appointed by the Governor; (2) two organic farmers from historically underserved communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom will be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one of whom will be recommended by the Senate President; (3) one regenerative farmer to be appointed by the Governor; and (4) two organic trade representatives to be appointed by the Governor.

The bill defines “regenerative farming” as farming and grazing practices that (1) prioritize soil health and ecosystem health; (2) reduce reliance on synthetic inputs; (3) reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter, sequestering carbon, and restoring degraded soil biodiversity; and (4) engage in conservation practices to ensure the long-term health of the farm’s ecosystem, among many benefits. “Organic trade representative” is defined as a representative of an individual, or a not-for-profit or for-profit partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or entity, who is legally registered and operating in the State, who engages in the business of aggregating, processing, and distributing organic fiber, feeds, and other organic agricultural-based supply and consumer products, including any commodity or product derived from organic livestock, that is marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption, or who directly engages with, or supports and advocates for, organic and regenerative farmers in New Jersey.

Under the bill, the board would be required to meet quarterly in different regions of the State and fulfill certain reporting requirements set forth in the bill. Specifically, the bill directs the board to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature every two years concerning the status of organic farming in the State, including any

recommendations for legislative or regulatory action. Furthermore, the board would be required to report to the State Board of Agriculture and the DOA, on a monthly basis, concerning any actions taken by the board, any needs of the board, as well as any updates within the organic farming community. The bill also allows the board to submit quarterly reports directly to the DOA, after which the DOA would be required to respond within 30 days after the submission of the quarterly report.

The committee amendments provide technical changes to the bill to reorder the listing of definitions in the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3444 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

01/10/2023

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

**A-1438/S-2196 (Kennedy, Mukherji, Stanley/Scutari)** - Increases maximum penalty for certain violations concerning asbestos hazard abatement; allocates moneys from increased penalties to asbestos programs

**A-3444/S-3140 (Freiman, Swain/Zwicker, Gill)** - Establishes Organic Farming Board in Department of Agriculture

**A-4768/S-3162 (Quijano, Atkins/Cryan, Madden)** - Revises effective date of severance requirements under “Millville Dallas Airmotive Plant Job Loss Notification Act”

The Governor vetoed the following bill:

**A-2002/S-1656 (Conaway, Jimenez, Stanley/Pou) - CONDITIONAL** - Requires State registrar to permit county surrogate to provide certified copy of death certificate to authorized persons under certain circumstances

[Copy of Statement](#)