

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 1998

CHAPTER:9

NJSA:52:9A-8

"NJ Tall Ship -- A.J. Meerwald"

BILL NO: A750 (Substituted for S485)

SPONSOR(S): Asselta and Gibson

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY: State Government

SENATE: State Government

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:No

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY: March 16, 1998

SENATE: March 30, 1998

DATE OF APPROVAL: April 21, 1998

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: Original

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A750

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 2 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

S485

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 2 of original bill)
(Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A750)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *No*

SENATE: *Yes* (Identical to Assembly Statement for A750)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

VETO MESSAGE: *No*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

*To check for circulating copies contact New Jersey State Government Publications at
the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 102 or refdesk@njstatelib.org*

REPORTS: *No*

HEARINGS: *No*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: *No*

ASSEMBLY, No. 750

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS ASSELTA

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Assemblyman JOHN C. GIBSON

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey State Tall Ship; appropriates \$95,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A750 ASSELTA, GIBSON

2

1 AN ACT designating the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey
2 State Tall Ship and making an appropriation.

3

4 WHEREAS, The A.J. Meerwald is a Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner,
5 built to meet the needs of New Jersey's oyster fishing industry
6 which, at the time, was the backbone of the region's economy and
7 culture; and

8 WHEREAS, Constructed in 1928 in Dorchester, New Jersey, the A.J.
9 Meerwald was one of hundreds of schooners built along South
10 Jersey's Delaware bayshore representing a nationally significant
11 vessel type designed and built only in New Jersey; and

12 WHEREAS, The Delaware Bay Schooner Project was founded in 1988
13 to conserve and enrich the history, culture and environment of the
14 Delaware Estuary and the coastal waters of New Jersey; and

15 WHEREAS, The A.J. Meerwald was donated to the Delaware Bay
16 Schooner Project in 1989 and was painstakingly restored by
17 dedicated New Jerseyans; and

18 WHEREAS, The Delaware Bay Schooner Project uses the ship as a
19 sailing classroom to promote ecological and historical awareness of
20 the Delaware Bay and the waters of New Jersey; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1995, the A.J. Meerwald was added to the National
22 Register of Historic Places; and

23 WHEREAS, New Jersey is a maritime state with a rich heritage and
24 vast natural legacy worthy of celebration, recognition and
25 stewardship; and

26 WHEREAS, The A.J. Meerwald is an ideal symbol of New Jersey's
27 great heritage and an effective classroom for teaching the youth of
28 New Jersey; now, therefore,

29

30 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
31 of New Jersey:

32

33 1. The schooner A.J. Meerwald is designated as the New Jersey
34 State Tall Ship.

35

36 2. There is appropriated \$95,000 from the General Fund to the
37 Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the maintenance and operation of
38 the A.J. Meerwald.

39

40 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey
46 State Tall Ship and appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to the

1 Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the A.J. Meerwald's maintenance
2 and operation.

3 The A.J. Meerwald was a Delaware Bay oyster schooner, built to
4 meet the needs of the local oyster fishing industry. Constructed in
5 1928 in Dorchester, New Jersey, the A.J. Meerwald was one of
6 hundreds of schooners built along South Jersey's Delaware bayshore
7 before the decline of the ship building industry during the Great
8 Depression.

9 The Delaware Bay Schooner Project, founded in 1988 to conserve
10 and enrich the history, culture and environment of the Delaware
11 estuary, acquired the A.J. Meerwald by donation in 1989. The
12 Delaware Bay Schooner Project uses the ship as a sailing classroom to
13 promote ecological and historical awareness of the Delaware Bay
14 region. In 1995, the A.J. Meerwald was added to the National
15 Register of Historic Places.

ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 750

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 10, 1998

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably
Assembly, No. 750.

This bill designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey
State Tall Ship and appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to the
Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the A.J. Meerwald's maintenance
and operation.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 1998 session pending
technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required
by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, BANKING AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 750

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 26, 1998

The Senate State Government, Banking and Financial Institutions Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 750.

This bill designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey State Tall Ship and appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to the Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the A.J. Meerwald's maintenance and operation.

The A.J. Meerwald was a Delaware Bay oyster schooner, built to meet the needs of the local oyster fishing industry. Constructed in 1928 in Dorchester, New Jersey, the A.J. Meerwald was one of hundreds of schooners built along South Jersey's Delaware bayshore before the decline of the ship building industry during the Great Depression.

The Delaware Bay Schooner Project, founded in 1988 to conserve and enrich the history, culture and environment of the Delaware estuary, acquired the A.J. Meerwald by donation in 1989 and the ship has been painstakingly restored. The Delaware Bay Schooner Project uses the ship as a sailing classroom to promote ecological and historical awareness of the Delaware Bay and the waters of New Jersey. In 1995, the A.J. Meerwald was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

This bill is the same as Senate Bill No. 485.

SENATE, No. 485

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES S. CAFIERO

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Senator RAYMOND J. ZANE

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Allen

SYNOPSIS

Designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey State Tall Ship; appropriates \$95,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/31/1998)

S485 CAFIERO, ZANE

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15 Register of Historic Places.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, BANKING AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 485

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 26, 1998

The Senate State Government, Banking and Financial Institutions Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 485.

This bill designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey State Tall Ship and appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to the Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the A.J. Meerwald's maintenance and operation.

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This bill is the same as Assembly, No. 750.

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Gene Herman
609-777-2600

RELEASE: April 21, 1998

**Governor Signs Legislation Designating A. J. Meerwald
as State Tall Ship;
Participates in Water Testing Project**

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation designating the A. J. Meerwald, a 70-year-old Delaware Bay schooner, as the New Jersey State Tall Ship. In observance of Earth Week, the Governor also participated in a water testing project as part of the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) Water Snapshot '98 project.

"The Meerwald, a Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner, comes to us from another period of time in New Jersey history," Gov. Whitman said. "A time when sailing vessels like the Meerwald were the backbone of this region's economy and culture."

"The Meerwald embodies all that makes New Jersey special; quality materials, and quality design, and quality craftsmanship," the Governor said.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is sponsoring environmental educational sailing trips aboard the ship in Burlington City during Earth Week.

"Activities like this sailing classroom are being used, along with local workshops, to educate the public about New Jersey's watersheds," said DEP Commissioner Bob Shinn. "We want to involve people in the planning process to protect our vital water resources."

Joining the Governor in testing the Delaware River water were Girl Scouts from Delran High School, Troop 6088 and South Jersey Pines, Region 6. Water Snapshot '98 involves citizens taking test tube samples in waterways in the Delaware River basin to test for chemicals, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Water Snapshot '98 began last Friday and will continue until Saturday. Following the project, the DRBC will issue a report on the findings.

"Our waterways are essential to our future," Gov. Whitman said. "Last year, we earmarked \$12 million for an 18-month watershed initiatives program. In October of '97, I signed the Watershed Protection and Management Act that establishes a watershed-based approach to managing water quality and pollution control."

"We've been very successful in cleaning up New Jersey's waterways," the Governor said. "And we are now taking the next step as we begin to deal with how

we stop 'non-point pollution,' which is when the rain washes the pesticides from our lawns into the local creeks."

"Moving to this next step will mean involving our communities in a partnership to educate all our citizens about how to keep our waterways clean," Gov. Whitman said. "We want to make New Jersey's waters the cleanest in the nation."

A-750, the bill designating the A. J. Meerwald as the New Jersey State Tall Ship, also appropriates \$95,000 for the maintenance and operation of the ship.

The bill was sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and John C. Gibson (R- Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Senators James S. Cafiero (R- Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland); Raymond J. Zane (D- Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester) and Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden).

One of hundreds of schooners built along South Jersey's Delaware Bay shore, the schooner was built to meet the needs of the New Jersey oyster fishing industry. The schooner was donated to the Delaware Bay Schooner Project in 1989. The Project has been responsible for the restoration of the ship which it uses as a sailing classroom to promote ecological and historic awareness of the Delaware Bay region.

In 1995, the schooner was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Meerwald is available for reduced price 2 1/2 hour public sails for \$15 per person on four evenings -- Wednesday, April 22, through Sunday, April 26 -- at 6 p. m. (no Friday evening sail), and two day-trips on Saturday, April 25, at 9 a. m. and Sunday, April 26, at 10 a. m. Tickets will be sold at the schooner before each sail, and on Friday, April 24, at 5:30 p. m. for advance tickets for Saturday's and Sunday's sails.