

52:27D-25b1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECK

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LAWS OF: 1999 **CHAPTER:** 229

NJSA: 52:27D-25b1 (thermal imaging)

BILL NO: A3073 (Substituted for S1873)

SPONSOR(S): Bateman & Biondi

DATE INTRODUCED: May 3, 1999

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Law & Public Safety; Appropriations

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 24, 1999

SENATE: July 1, 1999

DATE OF APPROVAL: October 4, 1999

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: Assembly Committee Substitute
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A3073

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#) 5-17-99 (Law & P. S.)
[Yes](#) 6-21-99 (Appropriations)

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1873

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of original bill) [Yes](#)
Sponsor Statement identical to A3073

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: [Yes](#) 6-14-99 (Law & P. S.)
[Yes](#) 6-21-99 (Budget)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes

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

No

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

Yes

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

"Whitman okays high-tech cameras for firefighters," 10-1-99, Newark Star ledger, p. 34.

"NJ funds high-tech firefighting," 10-5-99, Home News, p. 6.

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 229, *approved October 4, 1999*

Assembly Committee Substitute for

Assembly, No. 3073

1 AN ACT establishing a thermal imaging camera grant program.

2

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

5

6 1. There is hereby established in the Division of Fire Safety in the
7 Department of Community Affairs a thermal imaging camera grant
8 program, under which grants shall be made available to governing fire
9 organizations that apply to assist in the purchase of thermal imaging
10 cameras or to reimburse governing fire organizations for public funds
11 other than State funds that have been expended for the purchase of
12 thermal imaging cameras. The appropriate State agency shall contract
13 with a manufacturer to obtain the best price available. The Department
14 of Community Affairs may require, pursuant to such uniform standards
15 as the department may prescribe, fire districts that apply for such grants
16 to provide matching funds of up to, but not more than, the amount of the
17 grant awarded.

18 There shall be available for the support of the thermal imaging camera
19 grant program such sums as shall be appropriated therefor in the
20 Appropriations Act for the State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2000.

21 As used in this section, "governing fire organizations" means a
22 municipality, fire district, fire company or fire department responsible for
23 providing fire protection in any given municipality.

24

25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

26

27

28

29

30 Establishes thermal imaging camera grant program in DCA.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3073

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 3, 1999

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman PETER J. BIONDI

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

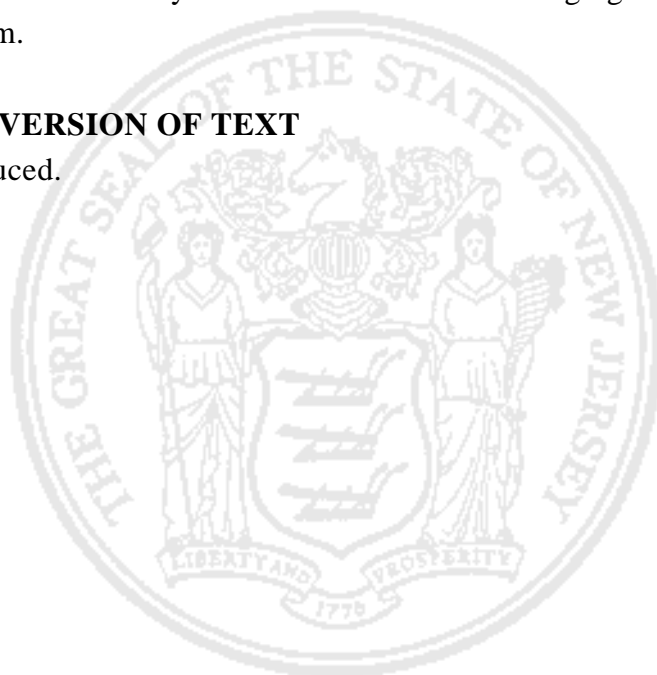
**Assemblywoman Crecco, Assemblymen Geist, Luongo, Barnes, Gusciora,
Holzapfel, Merkt, Assemblywoman Myers and Assemblyman Talarico**

SYNOPSIS

Supplemental appropriation of \$10,000,000 to Division of Fire Safety in Department of Community Affairs to fund thermal imaging camera grant program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/1999)

1 A SUPPLEMENT to "An Act making appropriations for the support of
2 the State Government and the several public purposes for the fiscal
3 year ending June 30, 1999 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved June 30, 1998 (P.L.1998, c.45).

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

8 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.1998, c.45,
9 there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for
10 the purpose specified:
11

12 GRANTS-IN-AID

13 22 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

14 40 Community Development and Environmental Management

15 41 Community Development Management -- Grants-in-Aid

16		
17		
18	18-8017 Uniform Fire Code	\$10,000,000
19	Total Appropriation, Community Development Management	<u>\$10,000,000</u>
20	Grants:	
21	Thermal Imaging Camera Grant Program	(\$10,000,000)
22		

23 The amount appropriated herein shall be deposited in a dedicated fund and be made available for
24 grants to governing fire organizations to assist in the purchase of thermal imaging cameras. As
25 used herein, "governing fire organizations" means a municipality, fire district, fire company or
26 fire department responsible for providing fire protection in any given municipality. The State's
27 contribution shall not exceed 50% of the cost of any purchase for which a grant is made. The
28 grants shall be based upon applications submitted to the Director of the Division of Fire Safety
29 in the Department of Community Affairs and shall be awarded in a manner to ensure that
30 thermal imaging cameras are distributed throughout the State on a fair and rational basis. The
31 Director shall ensure that grant applicants contribute their matching funds from sources other
32 than from the State.
33

34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
35

36
37 STATEMENT
38

39 This bill would appropriate \$10,000,000 to the Division of Fire
40 Safety in the Department of Community Affairs to fund a thermal
41 imaging camera grant program for fire departments and fire
42 companies.

43 The bill utilizes the term "governing fire organization" to mean a
44 municipality, fire district, fire company or fire department responsible
45 for providing fire protection in any given municipality. Each
46 governing fire organization would be able to apply for a grant to
47 cover up to 50 percent of the cost of a thermal imaging camera. The
48 grants would be based upon applications submitted to the Director of

A3073 BATEMAN, BIONDI

3

1 the Division of Fire Safety and would be awarded in a manner to
2 ensure that thermal imaging cameras are distributed throughout the
3 State on a fair and rational basis.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3073

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 17, 1999

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3073.

Assembly Bill No. 3073 appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety, to fund a thermal imaging camera grant program for fire departments and fire companies.

The bill utilizes the term "governing fire organization" to mean a municipality, fire district, fire company or fire department responsible for providing fire protection in any given municipality. Each governing fire organization is authorized to apply for a grant to cover up to 50 percent of the cost of a thermal imaging camera. The grants are to be based upon applications submitted to the Director of the Division of Fire Safety and awarded in a manner to ensure that thermal imaging cameras are distributed throughout the State on a fair and rational basis.

The committee amended the bill to increase the appropriation to the department to \$20,000,000 and remove the provisions requiring applicant fire organizations to cover 50 percent of the cost of a thermal imaging camera. The committee also amended the bill to clarify that grants also could be used to reimburse fire organizations for public funds other than State funds previously expended for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 3073

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 21, 1999

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3073.

This Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3073 establishes in the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs a thermal imaging camera grant program, under which grants will be made available to municipalities, fire districts, fire companies and fire departments responsible for providing fire protection in any given municipality to assist in the purchase of thermal imaging cameras.

The appropriate State agency shall contract with a manufacturer to obtain the best price available. The Department of Community Affairs may require, pursuant to such uniform standards as the department may prescribe, fire districts that apply for such grants to provide matching funds of up to, but not more than, the amount of the grant awarded.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill provides that there shall be available for the support of the thermal imaging camera grant program such sums as shall be appropriated therefor in the FY2000 appropriations act.

The FY2000, pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 3300 of 1999, appropriates \$7.5 million for the program.

SENATE, No. 1873

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 10, 1999

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator NORMAN M. ROBERTSON

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Allen, Bucco, Singer, Inverso, Cafiero and Girgenti

SYNOPSIS

Supplemental appropriation of \$10,000,000 to Division of Fire Safety in Department of Community Affairs to fund thermal imaging camera grant program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/1999)

1 A SUPPLEMENT to "An Act making appropriations for the support of
2 the State Government and the several public purposes for the fiscal
3 year ending June 30, 1999 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved June 30, 1998 (P.L.1998, c.45).

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

8
9 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.1998, c.45, there
10 is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for the purpose
11 specified:
12

13 GRANTS-IN-AID

14 22 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

15 40 Community Development and Environmental Management

16 41 Community Development Management -- Grants-in-Aid

17		
18		
19	18-8017 Uniform Fire Code	<u>\$10,000,000</u>
20	Total Appropriation, Community Development Management	<u>\$10,000,000</u>
21	Grants:	
22	Thermal Imaging Camera Grant Program	(\$10,000,000)

23
24 The amount appropriated herein shall be deposited in a dedicated fund and be made available for
25 grants to governing fire organizations to assist in the purchase of thermal imaging cameras or
26 to reimburse governing fire organizations for public funds other than State funds that have been
27 expended for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras. As used herein, "governing fire
28 organizations" means a municipality, fire district, fire company or fire department responsible
29 for providing fire protection in any given municipality. The State's contribution shall not exceed
30 50% of the cost of any purchase for which a grant is made. The grants shall be based upon
31 applications submitted to the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
32 Community Affairs and shall be awarded in a manner to ensure that thermal imaging cameras
33 are distributed throughout the State on a fair and rational basis. The Director shall ensure that
34 grant applicants contribute their matching funds from sources other than the State.
35

36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
37
38

39 STATEMENT

40
41 This bill would appropriate \$10,000,000 to the Division of Fire
42 Safety in the Department of Community Affairs to fund a thermal
43 imaging camera grant program for fire departments and fire
44 companies.

45 The bill utilizes the term "governing fire organization" to mean a
46 municipality, fire district, fire company or fire department responsible
47 for providing fire protection in any given municipality. Each
48 governing fire organization would be able to apply for a grant to

S1873 MATHEUSSEN, ROBERTSON

3

1 cover up to 50 percent of the cost of a thermal imaging camera.
2 Grant monies could be used either for the purchase of a camera or for
3 reimbursement. The grants would be based upon applications
4 submitted to the Director of the Division of Fire Safety and would be
5 awarded in a manner to ensure that thermal imaging cameras are
6 distributed throughout the State on a fair and rational basis.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1873

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 14, 1999

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1873.

This bill appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs to fund a thermal imaging camera grant program for fire departments and fire companies.

The bill defines "governing fire organization" to mean a municipality, fire district, fire company or fire department responsible for providing fire protection in any given municipality. Each governing fire organization would be able to apply for a grant to cover up to 50 percent of the cost of a thermal imaging camera. Grant monies could be used either for the purchase of a camera or for reimbursement. The grants would be based upon applications submitted to the Director of the Division of Fire Safety and would be awarded in a manner to ensure that thermal imaging cameras are distributed throughout the State on a fair and rational basis.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, No. 1873**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 21, 1999

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably a committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 1873.

This substitute bill establishes in the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs a thermal imaging camera grant program, under which grants would be made available to municipalities, fire districts, fire companies and fire departments responsible for providing fire protection in any given municipality to assist in the purchase of thermal imaging cameras or to reimburse the grantee for public funds other than State funds that have been expended for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras. The grants would be awarded on the basis of applications submitted to the Director of the Division of Fire Safety and in a manner to ensure that thermal imaging cameras are distributed throughout the State on a fair and rational basis. The State's contribution under the grant program could not exceed 50% of the cost of any purchase for which a grant is made, except that the director is authorized to allow a larger State contribution to a grant applicant that demonstrates that requiring it to match equally the State's contribution would result in financial hardship to the applicant. The director is to ensure that grantees contribute their matching funds from sources other than the State.

The substitute bill provides that the State shall be responsible, on behalf of grant recipients, for arranging for the purchase, under the most cost-effective terms available, of the thermal imaging cameras under the grant program.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill provides that there shall be available for the support of the thermal imaging camera grant program such sums as shall be appropriated therefor in the FY2000 appropriations act. That act, as embodied in pending legislation (Senate Bill No. 3000 and Assembly Bill No. 3300 of 1999), proposes to appropriate \$7.5 million for the program.

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Gene Herman

609-777-2600

RELEASE: July 1, 1999

**Governor Signs Bill to Provide
Fire Organizations with Thermal Imaging Cameras**

Gov. Christie Whitman today demonstrated her commitment to keeping New Jersey's fire fighters safe and well-equipped by signing legislation authorizing the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to implement a program to purchase thermal imaging cameras for fire organizations. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2000 budget appropriated \$7.5 million for the purchase of the high-tech devices, which enable firemen to see through heavy smoke and pinpoint locations of trapped fire victims.

"I am pleased to sign such an important piece of fire safety legislation. This bill will provide New Jersey's firefighters with the remarkable technology that will allow them to see through dense smoke and to check for 'hot spots' behind closed doors and walls," the Governor said.

"The thermal imaging camera is a valuable tool that can help save both the lives of those trapped in a burning building and the lives of the men and women trying to put the fire out. This noble profession is well deserving of the \$7.5 million state grant that ensures we are providing as much support as we can for our fire fighters," she said.

"As important as the thermal imaging camera is to the fire-fighting profession, I recognize the fact that the camera is only a tool. Each and every fire fighter remains the most important part of the fire fighting equation," Gov. Whitman said.

The program authorized through the legislation will allow a fire organization to receive - at no cost to it - a quality camera chosen by the DCA. Fire organizations that purchase a camera other than the one offered by the state will be entitled to reimbursement up to the purchase price of the state-selected camera.

The legislation, **A-3073**, was sponsored by Assembly Members Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset) and Peter J. Biondi (R-Morris/Somerset) and Senators John J. Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Norman M. Robertson (R-Essex/Passaic).

Gov. Whitman said fire fighters deserve a share of the credit for the recent news from the state's Uniform Crime Report that there was a 12 percent decrease in reportable arsons in 1998. She said this decrease shows the importance of fire safety and the seriousness of arson, and that is improving the quality of life in the state's communities.

According to the Governor, the drop in arsons also can be attributed to the many important changes the state is making in the field of fire safety.

"For example, the Division of Fire Safety adopted a new version of the New Jersey Fire Code. Since the enforcement of this new code, civilian fire fatalities have dropped from almost 200 in 1986 to 65 in 1998. This is a significant decrease, and let's hope the numbers continue to drop in the coming year," Gov. Whitman said.

"Last year, I signed legislation which ensures that fire police have the training necessary to perform their jobs safely. And included in this year's budget are funds to increase the staff of the Division of Fire Safety, as well as a \$1.5 million appropriation to establish a statewide Urban Search and Rescue Team," she said.

"Again, I would like to thank all of New Jersey's fire fighters for their many contributions - from protecting our dry land from this summer's drought, to passing out smoke detectors, to risking their own lives to save others. I want to thank them not only in word but also in action. This fall I intend to record a new recruitment video, asking more New Jerseyans to volunteer their time to the local fire departments," Gov. Whitman said.

"I will also encourage towns to consider adopting the Length of Service Award Program, which provides an IRA-like account to volunteers who are constant participants in emergency calls and complete the necessary training. So far, more than 10 percent of the municipalities throughout the state have adopted or have considered LOSAP since I signed the bill establishing this program last year," the Governor said.