13:19-38

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF:	2008	CHAPTER:	82		
NJSA:	13:19-38	("Public Acces	ss and Marina Safety Task Force Ac	xt.")	
BILL NO:	S1553	(substituted for	r A2601)		
SPONSOR(S)	Ciesla and ot	hers			
DATE INTRO	DUCED: Apri	I 7, 2008			
COMMITTEE	ASSE	EMBLY:			
	SENAT	E: Environ	ment		
	URING PASSA	GE: No			
DATE OF PA	SSAGE:	ASSEMBLY:	June 23, 2008		
		SENATE:	June 23, 2008		
DATE OF AP	PROVAL:	September 10), 2008		
FOLLOWING	ARE ATTACHE	ED IF AVAILABI	.E:		
FINAL	TEXT OF BILL	(Senate Commi	ttee Substitute enacted)		
S1553	SPONSOR'S	STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	<u>Yes</u>	
	COMMITTEE	STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	No	
			SENATE:	Yes	
(Audio archive at www.njleg.s		the committee m	neetings, corresponding to the date o	of the committee	e statement, <i>may possibly</i> b
	FLOOR AMEN	IDMENT STATE	MENT:	No	
	LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:				
A2601					
	SPONSOR'S	STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	<u>Yes</u>	
	COMMITTEE	STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	<u>Yes</u>	
			SENATE:	No	
	FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:			No	
	LEGISLATIVE	FISCAL NOTE:		No	
VETO MESSAGE:				No	

No

be found

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org

REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes

"Governor signs law allowing marinas to avoid 24-hour access," The Press of Atlantic City, 9-11-08, p.C1.

LAW/RWH 3/4/09

§§1-7 -C.13:19-38 to 13:19-44

P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 82, *approved September 10, 2008* Senate Committee Substitute for Senate, No. 1553

AN ACT concerning public access requirements for marinas and 1 2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Public 8 Access and Marina Safety Task Force Act." 9 10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: 11 a. The Public Trust Doctrine is an important legal principle that 12 establishes the right of the public to use tidal waterways and their 13 shores, including the ocean, bays, and tidal rivers; 14 b. As interpreted today, the Public Trust Doctrine upholds that 15 public rights to tidal waterways and their shores are held by the 16 State in trust for the benefit of all of the people, and recognizes and 17 protects natural resources as well as recreational uses such as 18 swimming, sunbathing, fishing, boating and walking along tidal 19 waterways and their shores; Marinas are a unique and essential part of the State's 20 c. waterfront community, providing access to a variety of recreational 21 22 activities, and providing important boating infrastructure and 23 services, that should be encouraged; 24 d. In December 2007, the Department of Environmental 25 Protection adopted rules and regulations, and issued a concurrent regulatory proposal, governing public access at marinas, which 26 27 rules and regulations are both economically destructive and 28 practically unworkable for the marina industry; and 29 e. It is therefore in the public interest to conduct a study of the 30 efficacy, practicability and feasibility of these rules and regulations and to impose a moratorium on their implementation until such time 31 32 as the affected parties have had the opportunity to address the many 33 and variegated issues raised thereby. 34 The Legislature therefore determines that a moratorium on the 35 implementation of the rules and regulations adopted by the 36 Department of Environmental Protection in December 2007 37 governing public access at marinas is critical to ensure that all affected interests are taken into account, thus increasing the 38 39 likelihood of a more reasonable and equitable policy emerging 40 therefrom. 41 42 3. There shall be a moratorium on the implementation of the 43 of N.J.A.C.7:7E-3.50, N.J.A.C.7:7E-7.3 provisions and N.J.A.C.7:7E-8.11, as applied to marinas, as such rules and 44

SCS for **S1553**

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regulations were adopted by the Department of Environmental

Protection on December 17, 2007. During the moratorium the

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3 Public Access and Marina Safety Task Force established pursuant 4 to section 4 of this act shall conduct the study required pursuant to 5 section 5 of this act. The moratorium shall expire on December 31, 6 2010. 7 8 There is established in but not of the Department of 4. a. 9 Environmental Protection the Public Access and Marina Safety 10 Task Force. The task force shall evaluate and study the efficacy, 11 practicability and feasibility of the rules and regulations governing access at marinas, and submit its findings 12 public and recommendations, in writing, to the Governor and the Legislature as 13 14 provided in section 6 of this act. 15 b. The task force shall consist of 10 members as follows: (1) a representative of the Department of Environmental 16 17 Protection; (2) a representative of the Office of Maritime Resources in the 18 19 Department of Transportation; 20 (3) four elected public officials, to be appointed by the Governor 21 with the advice and consent of the Senate, representing the coastal communities of Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth and Ocean 22 23 counties, respectively; and 24 (4) four public members to be appointed by the Governor with 25 the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the four public members, 26 one shall be a representative of the Urban Coast Institute of 27 Monmouth University, and one shall be a representative of the 28 environmental community with a recognized expertise and 29 specialization in coastal and shore protection issues. The remaining public members shall represent marina operators or a marine trade 30 31 association. 32 c. The members of the task force shall serve without 33 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses 34 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of 35 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for 36 its purposes. d. Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled in the same 37 38 manner as the original appointment. 39 e. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and service of 40 the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board, 41 bureau, commission, authority, or agency as it may require and as 42 may be available to it for its purposes, and to employ stenographic 43 and clerical assistance and to incur traveling or other miscellaneous 44 expenses as may be necessary in order to perform its duties, within 45 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it 46 for its purposes. The Department of Environmental Protection shall 47 provide primary staff support to the task force.

The task force shall meet monthly or at the call of the

chairperson of the task force or when requested by any four 2 3 members of the task force. 4 g. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the 5 appointment of its members, and shall select annually a chairperson 6 from among its members and a secretary who need not be a member 7 of the task force. 8 9 5. a. It shall be the duty of the Public Access and Marina Safety 10 Task Force to: 11 (1) evaluate and study the efficacy, practicability and feasibility of the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of 12 Environmental Protection, and the concurrent regulatory proposal 13 14 issued thereon, governing public access at marinas, in order to 15 ascertain the most reasonable and equitable manner in which to proceed with a public access and marina use policy; and 16 17 (2) hold at least one public hearing to solicit public comment and 18 suggestions on the issues and matters to be studied and evaluated 19 pursuant to this subsection. 20 b. The task force may solicit or receive any information or 21 resources concerning public access at marinas made available by 22 any governmental, public, private, not-for-profit or for-profit entity. 23 24 6. The task force shall submit its report, including its findings 25 and recommendations, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of 26 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature by December 31, 27 2010. Copies of the report shall be provided to the public upon 28 request and free of charge, and the report shall be posted on the 29 department's internet website. 30 31 7. For the duration of the moratorium imposed pursuant to 32 section 3 of this act, the department shall not: 33 a. require a marina facility to provide unlimited public access to 34 the waterfront; 35 b. require a conservation easement by means of a deed 36 restriction; c. require perpendicular access across the entire waterfront; or 37 38 d. require additional parking, as a condition of any permit for 39 activities relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing

marina facility issued pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The Wetlands Act of
1970," P.L.1970, c.272 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the "Coastal Area
Facility Review Act," P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et seq.).

44 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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f.

48 "Public Access and Marina Safety Task Force Act."

SENATE, No. 1553

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 7, 2008

Sponsored by: Senator ANDREW R. CIESLA District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean) Senator JEFF VAN DREW District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by: Senators Connors, Kyrillos, Adler, Beck, S.Kean and Scutari

SYNOPSIS

The "Public Access and Marina Safety Act."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2008)

2

1 AN ACT concerning public access requirements for marinas and 2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Public 8 Access and Marina Safety Act." 9 10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: 11 a. The Public Trust Doctrine is an important legal principle that establishes the right of the public to use tidal waterways and their 12 shores, including the ocean, bays, and tidal rivers; 13 b. As interpreted today, the Public Trust Doctrine upholds that 14 15 public rights to tidal waterways and their shores are held by the 16 State in trust for the benefit of all of the people, and recognizes and 17 protects natural resources as well as recreational uses such as swimming, sunbathing, fishing, boating and walking along tidal 18 19 waterways and their shores; 20 c. Marinas are a unique and essential part of the State's 21 waterfront community, providing access to a variety of recreational 22 activities, and providing important boating infrastructure and 23 services, that should be encouraged; 24 In December 2007, the Department of Environmental d. 25 Protection adopted rules and regulations, and issued a concurrent 26 regulatory proposal, governing public access at marinas, which 27 rules and regulations are both economically destructive and 28 practically unworkable for the marina industry; and 29 e. It is therefore in the public interest to require public access to 30 the tidal waterways and shores of this State by a private marina to 31 the maximum extent practicable and taking into consideration 32 proximity to alternative public access areas. 33 34 3. Notwithstanding any other law, or rule or regulation adopted 35 pursuant thereto, to the contrary, the department shall not require a 36 marina owner to: 37 provide unlimited public access to the waterfront at the a. 38 marina; or 39 b. deed restrict all or any part of the waterfront portion of the 40 property in perpetuity by way of a conservation easement solely for 41 the purpose of providing public access to the waterfront. 42 43 4. a. Within 60 days after receipt of a permit for an activity 44 relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing marina facility 45 from the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The Wetlands Act of 1970," P.L.1970, c.272 46 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the "Coastal Area Facility Review Act," 47

1 P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et seq.), the applicant shall submit to 2 the department a public access plan. 3 b. The public access plan required pursuant to this section shall: 4 (1) specify the hours the public may access the waterfront at the 5 marina, including any seasonal restrictions; 6 (2) identify the area or areas designated for public access; 7 (3) identify any area where public access is restricted; 8 (4) identify alternative opportunities for public access to the 9 waterfront in the proximity of the marina; and 10 (5) be posted in a conspicuous place at the marina for viewing 11 by the public. 12 c. The public access plan may be prepared by the owner of the 13 marina and shall not require the approval of the department, or any 14 other approval. 15 d. The public access plan may restrict access to the public in any 16 area of a marina facility that poses a risk to public safety as a result 17 of the operation of the marina, when the marina is closed, or where 18 necessary for business or privacy needs. 19 If an applicant required to submit a public access plan e. 20 pursuant to subsection a. of this section does not submit the plan 21 within 60 days after receipt of the applicable permit, the applicant 22 shall be subject to a penalty of \$250 to be collected in a summary 23 proceeding pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," 24 P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). 25 26 5. a. The department shall not require a marina facility to 27 provide unlimited public access to the waterfront as a condition of any permit for activities relating to the expansion or renovation of 28 29 an existing marina facility issued pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The 30 Wetlands Act of 1970," P.L.1970, c.272 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the 31 "Coastal Area Facility Review Act," P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et 32 seq.), nor may the department make the approval of such a permit 33 contingent upon the department's approval of a public access plan. 34 b. The department shall maintain a database of the public access 35 plans submitted pursuant to section 4 of this act, and make this database available on the department's website. 36 37 6. This act shall take effect immediately. 38 39 40 41 **STATEMENT** 42 43 This bill would prohibit the Department of Environmental 44 Protection (DEP) from requiring a marina owner to provide 45 unlimited public access to the waterfront at the marina or deed 46 restrict all or any part of the waterfront portion of the property in perpetuity by way of a conservation easement solely for the purpose 47 48 of providing public access to the waterfront.

S1553 CIESLA, VAN DREW

1 However, this bill would require a marina to submit a public 2 access plan within 60 days after receipt of a permit for an activity 3 relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing marina facility 4 pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The Wetlands Act of 1970," P.L.1970, 5 c.272 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the "Coastal Area Facility Review 6 Act," P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et seq.). (These permits are 7 commonly referred to as waterfront development permits, coastal 8 wetlands permits, and CAFRA permits.) The public access plan 9 would: specify the hours the public may access the waterfront at 10 the marina, including any seasonal restrictions; identify the area or 11 areas designated or set aside for public access; identify the area or 12 areas where public access is restricted; identify alternative 13 opportunities for public access to the waterfront in the proximity of 14 the marina; and be posted in a conspicuous place at the marina for 15 viewing by the public. Under this bill, a public access plan may 16 restrict access to the public in any area of a marina facility that 17 poses a risk to a person's safety as a result of the operation of the 18 marina, when the marina is closed, or where necessary for business 19 or privacy needs. If a public access plan is not submitted as 20 required, the bill would impose a one-time penalty of \$250 on the 21 applicant.

22 The bill further provides that the DEP may not require a marina 23 facility to provide unlimited public access to the waterfront as a 24 condition of any permit for activities relating to the expansion or 25 renovation of an existing marina facility, nor may the department 26 make the approval of such a permit contingent upon the 27 department's approval of a public access plan. The bill would 28 require the DEP to maintain a database of the public access plans, 29 and make this database available on the department's website.

30 This bill recognizes that marinas, including yacht clubs and 31 boatyards, in New Jersey come in many shapes and sizes, and 32 therefore each marina must be permitted to establish a public access 33 plan that addresses its operation, size, and geographic location, and 34 the safety of the public at all times. It is the sponsor's intent that 35 the term "marina" also encompasses yacht clubs and boatyards.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE, No. 1553

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2008

The Senate Environment Committee reports favorably the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1553.

The substitute bill would impose a moratorium on the implementation of the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on December 17, 2007 governing public access at marinas. While the moratorium is in effect the Public Access and Marina Safety Task Force established under the substitute bill would conduct a study addressing the issues raised by the rules and regulations, and the concurrent regulatory proposal issued by the DEP on public access at marinas, and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature. The moratorium would expire on December 31, 2010.

The Public Access and Marina Safety Task Force would consist of 10 members as follows:

(1) a representative of the DEP;

(2) a representative of the Office of Maritime Resources in the Department of Transportation;

(3) four elected public officials, to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, representing the coastal communities of Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth and Ocean counties, respectively; and

(4) four public members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the four public members, one shall be a representative of the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University, and one shall be a representative of the environmental community with a recognized expertise and specialization in coastal and shore protection issues. The remaining public members shall represent marina operators or a marine trade association.

The Task Force must submit its report, including its findings and recommendations, to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2010.

For the duration of the moratorium, the DEP shall not (1) require a marina facility to provide unlimited public access to the waterfront; (2) require a conservation easement by means of a deed restriction; (3) require perpendicular access across the entire waterfront; or (4) require

additional parking, as a condition of any permit for activities relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing marina facility issued pursuant to the waterfront development statute (R.S.12:5-3), "The Wetlands Act of 1970," or the "Coastal Area Facility Review Act."

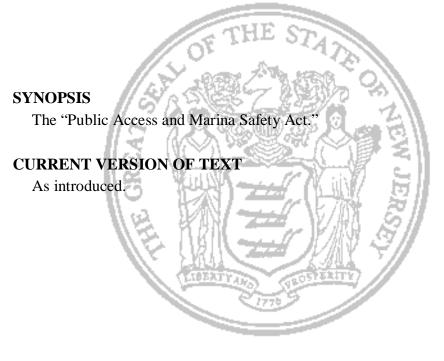
ASSEMBLY, No. 2601 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2008

Sponsored by: Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean) Assemblyman JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean) Assemblyman JOHN F. AMODEO District 2 (Atlantic) Assemblyman VINCENT J. POLISTINA District 2 (Atlantic) Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland) Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Van Pelt, Rible, Assemblywoman Casagrande, Assemblymen Rumpf and O'Scanlon



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/6/2008)

2

1 AN ACT concerning public access requirements for marinas and 2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Public 8 Access and Marina Safety Act." 9 10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: 11 a. The Public Trust Doctrine is an important legal principle that establishes the right of the public to use tidal waterways and their 12 shores, including the ocean, bays, and tidal rivers; 13 b. As interpreted today, the Public Trust Doctrine upholds that 14 15 public rights to tidal waterways and their shores are held by the 16 State in trust for the benefit of all of the people, and recognizes and 17 protects natural resources as well as recreational uses such as swimming, sunbathing, fishing, boating and walking along tidal 18 19 waterways and their shores; 20 c. Marinas are a unique and essential part of the State's 21 waterfront community, providing access to a variety of recreational 22 activities, and providing important boating infrastructure and 23 services, that should be encouraged; 24 In December 2007, the Department of Environmental d. 25 Protection adopted rules and regulations, and issued a concurrent 26 regulatory proposal, governing public access at marinas, which 27 rules and regulations are both economically destructive and 28 practically unworkable for the marina industry; and 29 e. It is therefore in the public interest to require public access to 30 the tidal waterways and shores of this State by a private marina to 31 the maximum extent practicable and taking into consideration 32 proximity to alternative public access areas. 33 34 3. Notwithstanding any other law, or rule or regulation adopted 35 pursuant thereto, to the contrary, the department shall not require a 36 marina owner to: 37 provide unlimited public access to the waterfront at the a. 38 marina; or 39 b. deed restrict all or any part of the waterfront portion of the 40 property in perpetuity by way of a conservation easement solely for 41 the purpose of providing public access to the waterfront. 42 43 4. a. Within 60 days after receipt of a permit for an activity 44 relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing marina facility 45 from the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The Wetlands Act of 1970," P.L.1970, c.272 46 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the "Coastal Area Facility Review Act," 47

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1 P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et seq.), the applicant shall submit to 2 the department a public access plan. 3 b. The public access plan required pursuant to this section shall: 4 (1) specify the hours the public may access the waterfront at the 5 marina, including any seasonal restrictions; 6 (2) identify the area or areas designated for public access; 7 (3) identify any area where public access is restricted; 8 (4) identify alternative opportunities for public access to the 9 waterfront in the proximity of the marina; and 10 (5) be posted in a conspicuous place at the marina for viewing 11 by the public. 12 c. The public access plan may be prepared by the owner of the 13 marina and shall not require the approval of the department, or any 14 other approval. 15 d. The public access plan may restrict access to the public in any 16 area of a marina facility that poses a risk to public safety as a result 17 of the operation of the marina, when the marina is closed, or where 18 necessary for business or privacy needs. 19 If an applicant required to submit a public access plan e. 20 pursuant to subsection a. of this section does not submit the plan 21 within 60 days after receipt of the applicable permit, the applicant 22 shall be subject to a penalty of \$250 to be collected in a summary 23 proceeding pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," 24 P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). 25 26 5. a. The department shall not require a marina facility to 27 provide unlimited public access to the waterfront as a condition of any permit for activities relating to the expansion or renovation of 28 29 an existing marina facility issued pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The 30 Wetlands Act of 1970," P.L.1970, c.272 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the 31 "Coastal Area Facility Review Act," P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et 32 seq.), nor may the department make the approval of such a permit 33 contingent upon the department's approval of a public access plan. 34 b. The department shall maintain a database of the public access 35 plans submitted pursuant to section 4 of this act, and make this database available on the department's website. 36 37 6. This act shall take effect immediately. 38 39 40 41 **STATEMENT** 42 43 This bill would prohibit the Department of Environmental 44 Protection (DEP) from requiring a marina owner to provide 45 unlimited public access to the waterfront at the marina or deed 46 restrict all or any part of the waterfront portion of the property in perpetuity by way of a conservation easement solely for the purpose 47 48 of providing public access to the waterfront.

A2601 WOLFE, HOLZAPFEL

4

1 However, this bill would require a marina to submit a public 2 access plan within 60 days after receipt of a permit for an activity 3 relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing marina facility 4 pursuant to R.S.12:5-3, "The Wetlands Act of 1970," P.L.1970, 5 c.272 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.), or the "Coastal Area Facility Review 6 Act," P.L.1973, c.185 (C.13:19-1 et seq.). (These permits are 7 commonly referred to as waterfront development permits, coastal 8 wetlands permits, and CAFRA permits.) The public access plan 9 would: specify the hours the public may access the waterfront at 10 the marina, including any seasonal restrictions; identify the area or 11 areas designated or set aside for public access; identify the area or 12 areas where public access is restricted; identify alternative 13 opportunities for public access to the waterfront in the proximity of 14 the marina; and be posted in a conspicuous place at the marina for 15 viewing by the public. Under this bill, a public access plan may 16 restrict access to the public in any area of a marina facility that 17 poses a risk to a person's safety as a result of the operation of the 18 marina, when the marina is closed, or where necessary for business 19 or privacy needs. If a public access plan is not submitted as 20 required, the bill would impose a one-time penalty of \$250 on the 21 applicant.

22 The bill further provides that the DEP may not require a marina 23 facility to provide unlimited public access to the waterfront as a 24 condition of any permit for activities relating to the expansion or 25 renovation of an existing marina facility, nor may the department 26 make the approval of such a permit contingent upon the 27 department's approval of a public access plan. The bill would 28 require the DEP to maintain a database of the public access plans, 29 and make this database available on the department's website.

This bill recognizes that marinas, including yacht clubs and boatyards, in New Jersey come in many shapes and sizes, and therefore each marina must be permitted to establish a public access plan that addresses its operation, size, and geographic location, and the safety of the public at all times. It is the sponsor's intent that the term "marina" also encompasses yacht clubs and boatyards.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 2601

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2008

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2601.

The substitute bill would impose a moratorium on the implementation of the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on December 17, 2007 governing public access at marinas. While the moratorium is in effect the Public Access and Marina Safety Task Force established under the substitute bill would conduct a study addressing the issues raised by the rules and regulations, and the concurrent regulatory proposal issued by the DEP on public access at marinas, and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature. The moratorium would expire on December 31, 2010.

The Public Access and Marina Safety Task Force would consist of 10 members as follows:

(1) a representative of the DEP;

(2) a representative of the Office of Maritime Resources in the Department of Transportation;

(3) four elected public officials, to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, representing the coastal communities of Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth and Ocean counties, respectively; and

(4) four public members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the four public members, one would be a representative of the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University, and one would be a representative of the environmental community with a recognized expertise and specialization in coastal and shore protection issues. The remaining public members would represent marina operators or a marine trade association.

The Task Force would submit its report, including its findings and recommendations, to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2010.

For the duration of the moratorium, the bill would prohibit the DEP from requiring (1) a marina facility to provide unlimited public

access to the waterfront; (2) a conservation easement by means of a deed restriction; (3) perpendicular access across the entire waterfront; or (4) additional parking, as a condition of any permit for activities relating to the expansion or renovation of an existing marina facility issued pursuant to the waterfront development statute (R.S.12:5-3), "The Wetlands Act of 1970," or the "Coastal Area Facility Review Act."