### 40:55D-28 & 40:55D-28.1 LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF:** 2021 **CHAPTER:** 6

NJSA: 40:55D-28 & 40:55D-28.1 (Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to

include climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment.)

BILL NO: S2607 (Substituted for A2785 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Smith, Bob and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 6/25/2020

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Environment & Solid Waste

**SENATE:** Environment & Energy

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 12/17/2020

**SENATE:** 8/27/2020

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 2/4/2021

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted)

Yes

S2607

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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

A2785 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

**SENATE**: No

(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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes
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.103 or mailto:refdes REPORTS:  HEARINGS:  NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	sk@njstatelib.org No No No

RH/CL

### P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 6, approved February 4, 2021 Senate, No. 2607 (First Reprint)

**AN ACT** concerning municipal master plans, amending P.L.1975, c.291, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

- 1. Section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28) is amended to read as follows:
  - 19. Preparation; contents; modification.
- a. The planning board may prepare and, after public hearing, adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare.
- b. The master plan shall generally comprise a report or statement and land use and development proposals, with maps, diagrams and text, presenting, at least the following elements (1) and (2) and, where appropriate, the following elements (3) through (17):
- (1) A statement of objectives, principles, assumptions, policies and standards upon which the constituent proposals for the physical, economic and social development of the municipality are based;
  - (2) A land use plan element
- (a) taking into account and stating its relationship to the statement provided for in paragraph (1) hereof, and other master plan elements provided for in paragraphs (3) through **[**(14)**]** (17) hereof and natural conditions, including, but not necessarily limited to, topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, flood plain areas, marshes, and woodlands;
- (b) showing the existing and proposed location, extent and intensity of development of land to be used in the future for varying types of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, open space, educational and other public and private purposes or combination of purposes including any provisions for cluster development; and stating the relationship thereof to the existing and any proposed zone plan and zoning ordinance;
- (c) showing the existing and proposed location of any airports and the boundaries of any airport safety zones delineated pursuant to the "Air Safety and Zoning Act of 1983," P.L.1983, c.260 (C.6:1-80 et al.);
- (d) including a statement of the standards of population density and development intensity recommended for the municipality;
- (e) showing the existing and proposed location of military facilities and incorporating strategies to minimize undue encroachment

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

- upon, and conflicts with, military facilities, including but not limited to: limiting heights of buildings and structures nearby flight paths or sight lines of aircraft; buffering residential areas from noise associated with a military facility; and allowing for the potential expansion of military facilities;
  - (f) including, for any land use <u>plan</u> element adopted after the effective date of P.L.2017, c.275, a statement of strategy concerning:
  - (i) smart growth which, in part, shall consider potential locations for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations,
  - (ii) storm resiliency with respect to energy supply, flood-prone areas, and environmental infrastructure, and
    - (iii) environmental sustainability; [and]

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- 13 (g) showing the existing and proposed location of public electric 14 vehicle charging infrastructure; and
- 14 15 (h) including, for any land use plan element adopted after the 16 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this 17 bill), a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment which 18 shall (i) <sup>1</sup> [consider environmental effects and extreme weather-related 19 events associated with climate change, including, but not limited to, 20 temperature, drought, and sea-level rise, and (ii) contain measures to 21 mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards, including, but not 22 limited to, coastal storms, shoreline erosion, flooding, storm surge, and 23 wind, following best management practices recommended by the 24 Federal Emergency Management Agency analyze current and future 25 threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards, including, but not limited to 26 27 increased temperatures, drought, flooding, hurricanes, and sea-level 28 rise; (ii) include a build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, 29 industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an 30 assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified in 31 subsubparagraph (i) of this subparagraph related to that development; 32 (iii) identify critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other 33 infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and for 34 sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained at 35 all times in an operational state; (iv) analyze the potential impact of 36 natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master 37 plan; (v) provide strategies and design standards that may be 38 implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards; 39 (vi) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, 40 coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard 41 vulnerability assessment with any existing or proposed natural hazard 42 mitigation plan, floodplain management plan, comprehensive 43 emergency management plan, emergency response plan, post-disaster 44 recovery plan, or capital improvement plan; and (vii) rely on the most 45 recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection<sup>1</sup>; 46
- 47 (3) A housing plan element pursuant to section 10 of 48 P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-310), including, but not limited to,

residential standards and proposals for the construction and improvement of housing;

- (4) A circulation plan element showing the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation required for the efficient movement of people and goods into, about, and through the municipality, taking into account the functional highway classification system of the Federal Highway Administration, the types, locations, conditions and availability of existing and proposed transportation facilities, including air, water, road and rail, and identifying existing and proposed locations for public electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- (5) A utility service plan element analyzing the need for and showing the future general location of water supply and distribution facilities, drainage and flood control facilities, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste disposal and provision for other related utilities, and including any storm water management plan required pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1981, c.32 (C.40:55D-93 et al.). If a municipality prepares a utility service plan element as a condition for adopting a development transfer ordinance pursuant to subsection c. of section 4 of P.L.2004, c.2 (C.40:55D-140), the plan element shall address the provision of utilities in the receiving zone as provided thereunder;
- (6) A community facilities plan element showing the existing and proposed location and type of educational or cultural facilities, historic sites, libraries, hospitals, firehouses, police stations and other related facilities, including their relation to the surrounding areas;
- (7) A recreation plan element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation;
- (8) A conservation plan element providing for the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including, to the extent appropriate, energy, open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, harbors, rivers and other waters, fisheries, endangered or threatened species wildlife and other resources, and which systemically analyzes the impact of each other component and element of the master plan on the present and future preservation, conservation and utilization of those resources;
- (9) An economic plan element considering all aspects of economic development and sustained economic vitality, including (a) a comparison of the types of employment expected to be provided by the economic development to be promoted with the characteristics of the labor pool resident in the municipality and nearby areas and (b) an analysis of the stability and diversity of the economic development to be promoted;
- (10) An historic preservation plan element: (a) indicating the location and significance of historic sites and historic districts; (b) identifying the standards used to assess worthiness for historic site or district identification; and (c) analyzing the impact of each component

and element of the master plan on the preservation of historic sites and districts;

- (11) Appendices or separate reports containing the technical foundation for the master plan and its constituent elements;
- (12) A recycling plan element which incorporates the State Recycling Plan goals, including provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials designated in the municipal recycling ordinance, and for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials within any development proposal for the construction of 50 or more units of single-family residential housing or 25 or more units of multi-family residential housing and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land;
- (13) A farmland preservation plan element, which shall include: an inventory of farm properties and a map illustrating significant areas of agricultural land; a statement showing that municipal ordinances support and promote agriculture as a business; and a plan for preserving as much farmland as possible in the short term by leveraging moneys made available by P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et al.) through a variety of mechanisms including, but not limited to, utilizing option agreements, installment purchases, and encouraging donations of permanent development easements;
- (14) A development transfer plan element which sets forth the public purposes, the locations of sending and receiving zones and the technical details of a development transfer program based on the provisions of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.2 (C.40:55D-141);
- (15) An educational facilities plan element which incorporates the purposes and goals of the "long-range facilities plan" required to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by a school district pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4);
- element, which shall provide for, encourage, and promote the efficient use of natural resources and the installation and usage of renewable energy systems; consider, encourage and promote the development of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in locations appropriate for their development, including but not limited to, commercial districts, areas proximate to public transportation and transit facilities and transportation corridors, and public rest stops; consider the impact of buildings on the local, regional and global environment; allow ecosystems to function naturally; conserve and reuse water; treat storm water on-site; and optimize climatic conditions through site orientation and design; and
- (17) A public access plan element that provides for, encourages, and promotes permanently protected public access to all tidal waters and adjacent shorelines consistent with the public trust doctrine, and which shall include a map and inventory of public access points, public facilities that support access, parking, boat ramps, and marinas; an assessment of the need for additional public access; a statement of

goals and administrative mechanisms to ensure that access will be permanently protected; and a strategy that describes the forms of access to satisfy the need for such access with an implementation schedule and tools for implementation.

- c. The master plan and its plan elements may be divided into subplans and subplan elements projected according to periods of time or staging sequences.
- d. The master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan to (1) the master plans of contiguous municipalities, (2) the master plan of the county in which the municipality is located, (3) the State Development and Redevelopment Plan adopted pursuant to the "State Planning Act," sections 1 through 12 of P.L.1985, c.398 (C.52:18A-196 et seq.) and (4) the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the provisions of the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.) of the county in which the municipality is located.

In the case of a municipality situated within the Highlands Region, as defined in section 3 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-3), the master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan, to the Highlands regional master plan adopted pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-8).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.267, s.1)

2. (New section) Upon request by a planning board, the Department of Environmental Protection shall provide technical assistance <sup>1</sup>, as practicable, <sup>1</sup> to a municipality preparing a climate change related hazard vulnerability assessment pursuant to subparagraph <sup>1</sup>[(g)] (h)<sup>1</sup> of paragraph (2) of subsection b. of section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to include climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment.

## **SENATE, No. 2607**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:** 

**Senator BOB SMITH** 

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)** 

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)** 

### **SYNOPSIS**

Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to include climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



AN ACT concerning municipal master plans, amending P.L.1975, 1 2 c.291, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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- 1. Section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28) is amended to read as follows:
  - 19. Preparation; contents; modification.
- The planning board may prepare and, after public hearing, adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare.
- The master plan shall generally comprise a report or statement and land use and development proposals, with maps, diagrams and text, presenting, at least the following elements (1) and (2) and, where appropriate, the following elements (3) through (17):
- (1) A statement of objectives, principles, assumptions, policies and standards upon which the constituent proposals for the physical, economic and social development of the municipality are based;
  - (2) A land use plan element
- (a) taking into account and stating its relationship to the statement provided for in paragraph (1) hereof, and other master plan elements provided for in paragraphs (3) through [(14)] (17) hereof and natural conditions, including, but not necessarily limited to, topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, flood plain areas, marshes, and woodlands;
- (b) showing the existing and proposed location, extent and intensity of development of land to be used in the future for varying residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, types of recreational, open space, educational and other public and private purposes or combination of purposes including any provisions for cluster development; and stating the relationship thereof to the existing and any proposed zone plan and zoning ordinance;
- (c) showing the existing and proposed location of any airports and the boundaries of any airport safety zones delineated pursuant to the "Air Safety and Zoning Act of 1983," P.L.1983, c.260 (C.6:1-80 et al.);
- (d) including a statement of the standards of population density and development intensity recommended for the municipality;
- 42 (e) showing the existing and proposed location of military 43 and incorporating strategies to minimize facilities 44 encroachment upon, and conflicts with, military facilities, including but not limited to: limiting heights of buildings and structures

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

- nearby flight paths or sight lines of aircraft; buffering residential areas from noise associated with a military facility; and allowing for the potential expansion of military facilities;
  - (f) including, for any land use <u>plan</u> element adopted after the effective date of P.L.2017, c.275, a statement of strategy concerning:
  - (i) smart growth which, in part, shall consider potential locations for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations,
  - (ii) storm resiliency with respect to energy supply, flood-prone areas, and environmental infrastructure, and
    - (iii) environmental sustainability; [and]

- (g) showing the existing and proposed location of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and
- (h) including, for any land use plan element adopted after the effective date of P.L., c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment which shall (i) consider environmental effects and extreme weather-related events associated with climate change, including, but not limited to, temperature, drought, and sea-level rise, and (ii) contain measures to mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards, including, but not limited to, coastal storms, shoreline erosion, flooding, storm surge, and wind, following best management practices recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
  - (3) A housing plan element pursuant to section 10 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-310), including, but not limited to, residential standards and proposals for the construction and improvement of housing;
  - (4) A circulation plan element showing the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation required for the efficient movement of people and goods into, about, and through the municipality, taking into account the functional highway classification system of the Federal Highway Administration, the types, locations, conditions and availability of existing and proposed transportation facilities, including air, water, road and rail, and identifying existing and proposed locations for public electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
  - (5) A utility service plan element analyzing the need for and showing the future general location of water supply and distribution facilities, drainage and flood control facilities, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste disposal and provision for other related utilities, and including any storm water management plan required pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1981, c.32 (C.40:55D-93 et al.). If a municipality prepares a utility service plan element as a condition for adopting a development transfer ordinance pursuant to subsection c. of section 4 of P.L.2004, c.2 (C.40:55D-140), the plan element shall address the provision of utilities in the receiving zone as provided thereunder;

(6) A community facilities plan element showing the existing and proposed location and type of educational or cultural facilities, historic sites, libraries, hospitals, firehouses, police stations and other related facilities, including their relation to the surrounding areas:

- (7) A recreation plan element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation;
- (8) A conservation plan element providing for the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including, to the extent appropriate, energy, open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, harbors, rivers and other waters, fisheries, endangered or threatened species wildlife and other resources, and which systemically analyzes the impact of each other component and element of the master plan on the present and future preservation, conservation and utilization of those resources;
- (9) An economic plan element considering all aspects of economic development and sustained economic vitality, including (a) a comparison of the types of employment expected to be provided by the economic development to be promoted with the characteristics of the labor pool resident in the municipality and nearby areas and (b) an analysis of the stability and diversity of the economic development to be promoted;
- (10) An historic preservation plan element: (a) indicating the location and significance of historic sites and historic districts; (b) identifying the standards used to assess worthiness for historic site or district identification; and (c) analyzing the impact of each component and element of the master plan on the preservation of historic sites and districts;
- (11) Appendices or separate reports containing the technical foundation for the master plan and its constituent elements;
- (12) A recycling plan element which incorporates the State Recycling Plan goals, including provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials designated in the municipal recycling ordinance, and for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials within any development proposal for the construction of 50 or more units of single-family residential housing or 25 or more units of multi-family residential housing and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land;
- (13) A farmland preservation plan element, which shall include: an inventory of farm properties and a map illustrating significant areas of agricultural land; a statement showing that municipal ordinances support and promote agriculture as a business; and a plan for preserving as much farmland as possible in the short term by leveraging moneys made available by P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et al.) through a variety of mechanisms including, but not limited to, utilizing option agreements, installment purchases, and encouraging donations of permanent development easements;

(14) A development transfer plan element which sets forth the public purposes, the locations of sending and receiving zones and the technical details of a development transfer program based on the provisions of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.2 (C.40:55D-141);

- (15) An educational facilities plan element which incorporates the purposes and goals of the "long-range facilities plan" required to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by a school district pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4);
- (16) A green buildings and environmental sustainability plan element, which shall provide for, encourage, and promote the efficient use of natural resources and the installation and usage of renewable energy systems; consider, encourage and promote the development of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in locations appropriate for their development, including but not limited to, commercial districts, areas proximate to public transportation and transit facilities and transportation corridors, and public rest stops; consider the impact of buildings on the local, regional and global environment; allow ecosystems to function naturally; conserve and reuse water; treat storm water on-site; and optimize climatic conditions through site orientation and design; and
- (17) A public access plan element that provides for, encourages, and promotes permanently protected public access to all tidal waters and adjacent shorelines consistent with the public trust doctrine, and which shall include a map and inventory of public access points, public facilities that support access, parking, boat ramps, and marinas; an assessment of the need for additional public access; a statement of goals and administrative mechanisms to ensure that access will be permanently protected; and a strategy that describes the forms of access to satisfy the need for such access with an implementation schedule and tools for implementation.
- c. The master plan and its plan elements may be divided into subplans and subplan elements projected according to periods of time or staging sequences.
- d. The master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan to (1) the master plans of contiguous municipalities, (2) the master plan of the county in which the municipality is located, (3) the State Development and Redevelopment Plan adopted pursuant to the "State Planning Act," sections 1 through 12 of P.L.1985, c.398 (C.52:18A-196 et seq.) and (4) the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the provisions of the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.) of the county in which the municipality is located.
- In the case of a municipality situated within the Highlands Region, as defined in section 3 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-3), the master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the

### S2607 B.SMITH, GREENSTEIN

relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan, to the Highlands regional master plan adopted pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-8).

4 (cf: P.L.2019, c.267, s.1)

2. (New section) Upon request by a planning board, the Department of Environmental Protection shall provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change related hazard vulnerability assessment pursuant to subparagraph (g) of paragraph (2) of subsection b. of section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. This assessment would consider environmental effects associated with climate change and extreme weather-related events including, but not limited to, temperature, drought, and sea-level rise, and contain measures to mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards, including, but not limited to, coastal storms, shoreline erosion, flooding, storm surge, and wind, following best management practices recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Under current law, the land use plan element of a municipal master plan is required to include a statement of strategy concerning: (1) smart growth, including consideration of potential locations for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations; (2) storm resiliency with respect to energy supply, flood-prone areas, and environmental infrastructure; and (3) environmental sustainability. This bill would expand on these requirements, and apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The bill would also require the Department of Environmental Protection, upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

# ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

### STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 2607** 

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 8, 2020

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2607 (1R).

This bill would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The assessment would: (1) analyze current and future threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards; (2) include a build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified in (1) above related to that development; (3) identify critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and for sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained at all times in an operational state; (4) analyze the potential impact of natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master plan; (5) provide strategies and design standards that may be implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards; (6) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with certain other plans adopted by the municipality; and (7) rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The bill would apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The bill would also require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance, as practicable, to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2785 as amended and reported by the committee.

### SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

### STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2607**

with committee amendments

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 29, 2020

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2607 with committee amendments.

This bill, as amended, would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The assessment would: (1) analyze current and future threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards; (2) include a build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified in (1) above related to that development; (3) identify critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and for sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained at all times in an operational state; (4) analyze the potential impact of natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master plan; (5) provide strategies and design standards that may be implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards; (6) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with certain other plans adopted by the municipality; and (7) rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The bill would apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The bill would also require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance, as practicable, to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

The committee amendments to the bill would:

- (1) replace the bill's requirements for a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment with new requirements, described above;
- (2) specify that the technical assistance provided by the DEP to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment be provided as practicable; and
  - (3) make a technical correction.

### LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

### SENATE, No. 2607 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to include

climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment.

**Type of Impact:** State and local expenditure increases.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection and certain municipalities.

### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Expenditure Increase		Marginal	
Municipal Expenditure Increase		Marginal	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill may result in a marginal municipal expenditure increase to the State and municipal governments.
- The OLS determines that the additional requirement under the land use plan element of a municipal master plan would likely be subsumed within existing duties by members of the planning board. However, some requirements of the assessment may need specialized expertise and certain municipalities may need to hire outside consultants. The OLS notes that a re-examination of a municipal master plan is only required to be completed once every 10 years. Furthermore, this bill will only affect municipal master plans adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.
- The Department Environmental Protection (DEP) may incur additional duties to provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The OLS determines that this assistance can be subsumed within existing duties.



### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The assessment would: (1) analyze current and future threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards; (2) include a build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified in (1) above related to that development; (3) identify critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and for sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained at all times in an operational state; (4) analyze the potential impact of natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master plan; (5) provide strategies and design standards that may be implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards; (6) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with certain other plans adopted by the municipality; and (7) rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the DEP. The bill would apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The bill would also require the DEP, upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance, as practicable, to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

### **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

The OLS estimates that this bill may result in a marginal expenditure increase to the DEP and municipal governments. The OLS determines that the additional requirement under the land use plan element of a municipal master plan, which is to include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment, would most likely be subsumed within existing duties by members of the planning board. However, some requirements of the assessment may need specialized expertise and certain municipalities may need to hire outside consultants. The OLS notes that a reexamination of a municipal master plan is only required to be completed once every 10 years. Furthermore, this bill will only affect municipal master plans adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The OLS notes that the DEP may incur additional duties to provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The OLS determines that this assistance can be subsumed within existing duties.

### FE to S2607 [1R]

3

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources

Analyst: Neha Mehta Patel

Associate Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Frank W. Haines III

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2785

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN District 18 (Middlesex)

### **SYNOPSIS**

Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to include climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**AN ACT** concerning municipal master plans, amending P.L.1975, c.291, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

- 1. Section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28) is amended to read as follows:
  - 19. Preparation; contents; modification.
- a. The planning board may prepare and, after public hearing, adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare.
- b. The master plan shall generally comprise a report or statement and land use and development proposals, with maps, diagrams and text, presenting, at least the following elements (1) and (2) and, where appropriate, the following elements (3) through (17):
- (1) A statement of objectives, principles, assumptions, policies and standards upon which the constituent proposals for the physical, economic and social development of the municipality are based;
  - (2) A land use plan element
- (a) taking into account and stating its relationship to the statement provided for in paragraph (1) hereof, and other master plan elements provided for in paragraphs (3) through **[**(14)**]** (17) hereof and natural conditions, including, but not necessarily limited to, topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, flood plain areas, marshes, and woodlands;
- (b) showing the existing and proposed location, extent and intensity of development of land to be used in the future for varying types of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, open space, educational and other public and private purposes or combination of purposes including any provisions for cluster development; and stating the relationship thereof to the existing and any proposed zone plan and zoning ordinance;
- (c) showing the existing and proposed location of any airports and the boundaries of any airport safety zones delineated pursuant to the "Air Safety and Zoning Act of 1983," P.L.1983, c.260 (C.6:1-80 et al.);
- (d) including a statement of the standards of population density and development intensity recommended for the municipality;
- (e) showing the existing and proposed location of military facilities and incorporating strategies to minimize undue encroachment upon, and conflicts with, military facilities, including but not limited to: limiting heights of buildings and structures

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

- nearby flight paths or sight lines of aircraft; buffering residential areas from noise associated with a military facility; and allowing for the potential expansion of military facilities;
  - (f) including, for any land use <u>plan</u> element adopted after the effective date of P.L.2017, c.275, a statement of strategy concerning:
  - (i) smart growth which, in part, shall consider potential locations for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations,
  - (ii) storm resiliency with respect to energy supply, flood-prone areas, and environmental infrastructure, and
    - (iii) environmental sustainability; [and]

- (g) showing the existing and proposed location of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and
- (h) including, for any land use plan element adopted after the effective date of P.L., c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment which shall (i) consider environmental effects and extreme weather-related events associated with climate change, including, but not limited to, temperature, drought, and sea-level rise, and (ii) contain measures to mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards, including, but not limited to, coastal storms, shoreline erosion, flooding, storm surge, and wind, following best management practices recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
  - (3) A housing plan element pursuant to section 10 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-310), including, but not limited to, residential standards and proposals for the construction and improvement of housing;
  - (4) A circulation plan element showing the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation required for the efficient movement of people and goods into, about, and through the municipality, taking into account the functional highway classification system of the Federal Highway Administration, the types, locations, conditions and availability of existing and proposed transportation facilities, including air, water, road and rail, and identifying existing and proposed locations for public electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
  - (5) A utility service plan element analyzing the need for and showing the future general location of water supply and distribution facilities, drainage and flood control facilities, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste disposal and provision for other related utilities, and including any storm water management plan required pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1981, c.32 (C.40:55D-93 et al.). If a municipality prepares a utility service plan element as a condition for adopting a development transfer ordinance pursuant to subsection c. of section 4 of P.L.2004, c.2 (C.40:55D-140), the plan element shall address the provision of utilities in the receiving zone as provided thereunder;

(6) A community facilities plan element showing the existing and proposed location and type of educational or cultural facilities, historic sites, libraries, hospitals, firehouses, police stations and other related facilities, including their relation to the surrounding areas;

- (7) A recreation plan element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation;
- (8) A conservation plan element providing for the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including, to the extent appropriate, energy, open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, harbors, rivers and other waters, fisheries, endangered or threatened species wildlife and other resources, and which systemically analyzes the impact of each other component and element of the master plan on the present and future preservation, conservation and utilization of those resources;
- (9) An economic plan element considering all aspects of economic development and sustained economic vitality, including (a) a comparison of the types of employment expected to be provided by the economic development to be promoted with the characteristics of the labor pool resident in the municipality and nearby areas and (b) an analysis of the stability and diversity of the economic development to be promoted;
- (10) An historic preservation plan element: (a) indicating the location and significance of historic sites and historic districts; (b) identifying the standards used to assess worthiness for historic site or district identification; and (c) analyzing the impact of each component and element of the master plan on the preservation of historic sites and districts;
- (11) Appendices or separate reports containing the technical foundation for the master plan and its constituent elements;
- (12) A recycling plan element which incorporates the State Recycling Plan goals, including provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials designated in the municipal recycling ordinance, and for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials within any development proposal for the construction of 50 or more units of single-family residential housing or 25 or more units of multi-family residential housing and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land;
- (13) A farmland preservation plan element, which shall include: an inventory of farm properties and a map illustrating significant areas of agricultural land; a statement showing that municipal ordinances support and promote agriculture as a business; and a plan for preserving as much farmland as possible in the short term by leveraging moneys made available by P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et al.) through a variety of mechanisms including, but not limited to, utilizing option agreements, installment purchases, and encouraging donations of permanent development easements;

(14) A development transfer plan element which sets forth the public purposes, the locations of sending and receiving zones and the technical details of a development transfer program based on the provisions of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.2 (C.40:55D-141);

- (15) An educational facilities plan element which incorporates the purposes and goals of the "long-range facilities plan" required to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by a school district pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4);
- (16) A green buildings and environmental sustainability plan element, which shall provide for, encourage, and promote the efficient use of natural resources and the installation and usage of renewable energy systems; consider, encourage and promote the development of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in locations appropriate for their development, including but not limited to, commercial districts, areas proximate to public transportation and transit facilities and transportation corridors, and public rest stops; consider the impact of buildings on the local, regional and global environment; allow ecosystems to function naturally; conserve and reuse water; treat storm water on-site; and optimize climatic conditions through site orientation and design; and
- (17) A public access plan element that provides for, encourages, and promotes permanently protected public access to all tidal waters and adjacent shorelines consistent with the public trust doctrine, and which shall include a map and inventory of public access points, public facilities that support access, parking, boat ramps, and marinas; an assessment of the need for additional public access; a statement of goals and administrative mechanisms to ensure that access will be permanently protected; and a strategy that describes the forms of access to satisfy the need for such access with an implementation schedule and tools for implementation.
- c. The master plan and its plan elements may be divided into subplans and subplan elements projected according to periods of time or staging sequences.
- d. The master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan to (1) the master plans of contiguous municipalities, (2) the master plan of the county in which the municipality is located, (3) the State Development and Redevelopment Plan adopted pursuant to the "State Planning Act," sections 1 through 12 of P.L.1985, c.398 (C.52:18A-196 et seq.) and (4) the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the provisions of the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.) of the county in which the municipality is located.

In the case of a municipality situated within the Highlands Region, as defined in section 3 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-3), the master plan shall include a specific policy statement indicating the

#### A2785 PINKIN

relationship of the proposed development of the municipality, as developed in the master plan, to the Highlands regional master plan adopted pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-8).

4 (cf: P.L.2019, c.267, s.1)

2. (New section) Upon request by a planning board, the Department of Environmental Protection shall provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change related hazard vulnerability assessment pursuant to subparagraph (g) of paragraph (2) of subsection b. of section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. This assessment would consider environmental effects associated with climate change and extreme weather-related events including, but not limited to, temperature, drought, and sea-level rise, and contain measures to mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards, including, but not limited to, coastal storms, shoreline erosion, flooding, storm surge, and wind, following best management practices recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Under current law, the land use plan element of a municipal master plan is required to include a statement of strategy concerning: (1) smart growth, including consideration of potential locations for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations; (2) storm resiliency with respect to energy supply, flood-prone areas, and environmental infrastructure; and (3) environmental sustainability. This bill would expand on these requirements, and apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The bill would also require the Department of Environmental Protection, upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

# ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

### STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2785

with committee amendments

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 8, 2020

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2785.

This bill, as amended by the committee, would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The assessment would: (1) analyze current and future threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards; (2) include a build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified in (1) above related to that development; (3) identify critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and for sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained at all times in an operational state; (4) analyze the potential impact of natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master plan; (5) provide strategies and design standards that may be implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards; (6) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with certain other plans adopted by the municipality; and (7) rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The bill would apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted

The bill would also require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance, as practicable, to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2607 (1R) as reported by the committee.

### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The committee amendments to the bill:

- (1) replace the bill's requirements for a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment with new requirements, as described above;
- (2) specify that the technical assistance provided by the DEP to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment be provided as practicable; and
  - (3) make a technical correction.

### LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2785

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 23, 2020

### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to include

climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment.

**Type of Impact:** State and local expenditure increases.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection and certain municipalities.

### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Expenditure Increase		Marginal	
<b>Municipal Expenditure Increase</b>		Marginal	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill may result in a marginal municipal expenditure increase to the State and municipal governments.
- The OLS determines that the additional requirement under the land use plan element of a municipal master plan would likely be subsumed within existing duties by members of the planning board. However, some requirements of the assessment may need specialized expertise and certain municipalities may need to hire outside consultants. The OLS notes that a re-examination of a municipal master plan is only required to be completed once every 10 years. Furthermore, this bill will only affect municipal master plans adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.
- The Department Environmental Protection (DEP) may incur additional duties to provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The OLS determines that this assistance can be subsumed within existing duties.

### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require that the land use plan element of a municipal master plan include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The assessment would: (1) analyze current



and future threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards; (2) include a build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified in (1) above related to that development; (3) identify critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and for sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained at all times in an operational state; (4) analyze the potential impact of natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master plan; (5) provide strategies and design standards that may be implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards; (6) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with certain other plans adopted by the municipality; and (7) rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the DEP. The bill would apply to any land use plan element adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The bill would also require the DEP, upon request by a planning board, to provide technical assistance, as practicable, to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment required by the bill.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

None received.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill may result in a marginal expenditure increase to the DEP and municipal governments. The OLS determines that the additional requirement under the land use plan element of a municipal master plan, which is to include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment, would most likely be subsumed within existing duties by members of the planning board. However, some requirements of the assessment may need specialized expertise and certain municipalities may need to hire outside consultants. The OLS notes that a re-examination of a municipal master plan is only required to be completed once every 10 years. Furthermore, this bill will only affect municipal master plans adopted after the date the bill is enacted into law.

The OLS notes that the DEP may incur additional duties to provide technical assistance to a municipality preparing a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The OLS determines that this assistance can be subsumed within existing duties.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources

Analyst: Neha Mehta Patel Associate Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Frank W. Haines III

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

02/4/2021

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

**S-2384/A-4129 (Greenstein, Gill/Spearman, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji)** – Requires health care facilities to report certain coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) data related to health care workers and certain first responders

**S-2607/A-2785 (Smith, Greenstein/Benson, McKeon)** – Requires land use plan element of municipal master plan to include climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment

#### Copy of Statement

S-3220/A-5122 (Sweeney, Turner, Cruz-Perez/Spearman, Dancer, Johnson) – Permits exemption from civil service law enforcement examination requirement for entry level-law enforcement officers Copy of Statement

**S-3230/A-5115 (Greenstein, Corrado/Moriarty, Conaway, Calabrese, Chiaravalloti)** – Appropriates \$30.387 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to DEP for State acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, including Blue Acres projects

**S-3256/A-5084 (Scutari, Ruiz/Kennedy, Calabrese)** – Reclassifies possession of psilocybin as disorderly persons offense

**A-4941/S-3122 (Mejia/Sacco)** – Authorizes State Treasurer to sell and convey certain surplus real property located in Town of Secaucus, Hudson County

**A-4943/S-3092 (Wirths, Space, Bergen/Oroho)** – Authorizes State Treasurer to sell and convey certain surplus real property located in Borough of Franklin, Sussex County

**A-5113/S-3235 (Timberlake, Sumter, Caputo/Beach, Pou)** – Appropriates \$11,777,499 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to NJ Historic Trust for grants for certain historic preservation projects and associated administrative expenses

**A-5114/S-3229 (DeAngelo, Speight, Swain/Codey, Corrado)** – Appropriates \$37.16 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects

A-5116/S-3196 (Johnson, Auth, Schepisi/Cardinale, Smith) – Authorizes State Treasurer to sell and convey certain surplus real property located in the Township of Mahwah, County of Bergen

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bill:

**S-3252/A-5089 (Vitale)** – CONDITIONAL – Clarifies that County Option Hospital Fee Pilot Program expires five years after each participating county has collected fee and that participating counties in program are not liable for fee imposed on hospitals

#### Copy of Statement

Governor Murphy absolute vetoed the following bill:

S-3283/A-5151 (Addiego, Lagana, Gopal/Egan, Armato, Downey, Bramnick) – ABSOLUTE – Concerns emergency unemployment benefits and shared work benefits

Copy of Statement

#### GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING SENATE BILL NO. 2607 (First Reprint)

Today I am pleased to sign Senate Bill No. (First Reprint), which expands upon the existing requirements of the land use plan element of a municipal master plan to require all land use elements adopted or amended on or after the bill's enactment to include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. Pursuant to the bill, the climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment will analyze current and future threats associated with climate changerelated natural hazards, including increased temperatures, drought, flooding, hurricanes, and sea-level rise. assessment also must include a build-out analysis of all future development in the municipality, as well as any threats and vulnerabilities associated with this development, strategies to reduce the risks of climate change-related natural hazards.

I commend the bill's sponsors for their recognition that confronting climate change requires concerted action at all levels of government and that local mitigation and adaptation measures are critical to protecting our residents, our economy, and our way of life. The requirements of the bill will serve as an important component of New Jersey's multi-faceted climate policy, complementing the Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy that the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") is developing in consultation with the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience pursuant to Executive Order No. 89 (2019), the critical regulatory reforms to be proposed by the DEP as part of NJPACT (New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats) under Executive Order No. 100 (2020), and the numerous climate change resilience efforts across all of our State agencies.

To ensure the success of Senate Bill No. 2607 (First Reprint), DEP is already working on multiple fronts to provide consistent data, tools, programs, educational materials, and guidance to help municipalities develop complete and accurate climate risk assessments and to ensure a consistent approach throughout the State. I encourage municipalities and municipal planning boards to take advantage of DEP's resources as they analyze and plan for climate change impacts within their communities.

The climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment, which should be integrated with a municipality's other land use elements in a manner that is consistent with all applicable constitutional and statutory requirements, is a critical step forward in our ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable development and mitigate climate-related hazards.

Date: February 4, 2021

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor