



**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"CARTER, HOUGHTALING AND MCKNIGHT BILL MAKING \$15 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS NOW LAW." US Fed News (USA), April 8, 2021.

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 43, *approved April 8, 2021*  
Senate, No. 3521 (*First Reprint*)

1 <sup>1</sup>**[A SUPPLEMENT** to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act,  
2 P.L.2020, c.97] **AN ACT** making federal funding available to the  
3 New Jersey Economic Development Authority and New Jersey  
4 Council on the Arts to support arts and culture organizations in  
5 need<sup>1</sup>.  
6

7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and the General Assembly of the  
8 State of New Jersey:  
9

10 <sup>1</sup>[1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020,  
11 c.97, the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2021, there is  
12 appropriated the following sum for the purpose specified:  
13

**82 DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**  
*50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security*  
*51 Economic Planning and Development*

**GRANTS-IN-AID**

38-2043	Economic Development .....	\$15,000,000
	Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation, Economic Planning and Development.....	\$15,000,000

***Grants-in-Aid:***

38 Coronavirus Relief Fund – Assistance to Arts  
and Culture Organizations, EDA..... (\$15,000,000)

14  
15 The amount hereinabove appropriated for Coronavirus Relief Fund  
16 –Assistance to Arts and Culture, EDA shall be allocated from a  
17 portion of federal block grant funds allocated to the State from  
18 the federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund” established pursuant to the  
19 federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act  
20 (CARES Act),” Pub.L.116-136, or any other federal funds made  
21 available to the State in response to the coronavirus disease 2019  
22 (COVID-19) pandemic.  
23

24 The amount hereinabove appropriated for Coronavirus Relief Fund  
25 – Assistance to Arts and Culture, EDA shall be allocated by the  
26 New Jersey Economic Development Authority to arts and  
27 cultural organizations in the State; provided that, not less than  
28 \$7,500,000 shall be allocated to the New Jersey Council on the  
29 Arts for the purposes of issuing grants to nonprofit arts and  
30 cultural entities. The New Jersey Economic Development  
31 Authority shall establish minimum grant eligibility criteria and

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted March 22, 2021.

1 the size of the grant awards to meet the needs of the grantee  
2 entities in responding to the public health crisis.】<sup>1</sup>

3  
4 <sup>1</sup>1. a. Subject to the availability of federal funds provided or made  
5 accessible to the State via federal block grant funds allocated to the  
6 State from the federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund” established pursuant  
7 to the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act  
8 (CARES Act),” Pub.L.116-136, or any other federal funds made  
9 available to the State in response to the coronavirus disease 2019  
10 (COVID-19) pandemic, \$7,500,000 from such federal funds shall be  
11 made available to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority  
12 for the purposes set forth in subsection b. of this section.

13 b. (1) The funds made available to the New Jersey Economic  
14 Development Authority pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall  
15 be reserved by the authority to provide financial support, by way of  
16 grants, to arts and culture for-profit organizations. The authority may  
17 use not more than five percent of the funds to defray any  
18 administrative expenses incurred in the implementation of this section.

19 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this  
20 subsection to the contrary, the authority may transfer the uncommitted  
21 balance of any funds made available pursuant to this section to any  
22 program established pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
23 the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 5443 or Senate Bill No. 3523 of  
24 2021), P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
25 Assembly Bill No. 5445 or Senate Bill No. 3520 of 2021), P.L. ,  
26 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.  
27 5446 or Senate Bill No. 3519 of 2021), or P.L. , c. (C. )  
28 (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 5444 or Senate  
29 Bill No. 3524 of 2021). The authority shall submit notice to the Joint  
30 Budget Oversight Committee no less than five calendar days before  
31 the date of the transfer. At minimum, the notice shall indicate the  
32 amount of the transferred funds and the purpose for which the funds  
33 are transferred.

34 c. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority shall  
35 establish the size of the awards and eligibility of entities in subsection  
36 b. of this section to meet the needs of arts and culture organizations in  
37 responding to the public health crisis.

38 d. As used in this section:

39 “Arts and culture for-profit organization” means an organization  
40 that: (1) either organizes, promotes, produces, manages, or hosts at  
41 least two regularly occurring live performances or events per week by  
42 performing artists for which admission fees are charged and  
43 performers are paid based on a percentage of sales, a guarantee, or  
44 other mutually beneficial formal arrangement or publicly sells tickets  
45 in advance of performing arts events for which performers are paid  
46 based on a percentage of sales, a guarantee, or other mutually  
47 beneficial formal arrangement; and (2) can demonstrate to the  
48 authority a 25 percent or greater operating revenue loss in the second  
49 quarter of 2020 compared to the second quarter of 2019.

1 “Performing arts or artist” includes, but is not limited to, events  
2 such as musical concerts, comedy shows, theatrical productions, dance  
3 performances, or other live renderings of similarly artistic works.<sup>1</sup>  
4

5 <sup>1</sup>2. a. Subject to the availability of federal funds provided or made  
6 accessible to the State via federal block grant funds allocated to the  
7 State from the federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund” established pursuant  
8 to the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act  
9 (CARES Act),” Pub.L.116-136, or any other federal funds made  
10 available to the State in response to the coronavirus disease 2019  
11 (COVID-19) pandemic, \$7,500,000 from such federal funds shall be  
12 made available to the New Jersey Council on the Arts for the purposes  
13 set forth in subsection b. of this section.

14 b. The funds made available to the New Jersey Council on the  
15 Arts pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be reserved by the  
16 council to provide financial support, by way of grants, to arts and  
17 culture non-profit organizations. The council may use not more than  
18 five percent of the funds to defray any administrative expenses  
19 incurred in the implementation of this section.

20 c. The New Jersey Council on the Arts shall establish the size of  
21 the awards and eligibility of entities in subsection b. of this section to  
22 meet the needs of arts and culture organizations in responding to the  
23 public health crisis.<sup>1</sup>  
24

25 <sup>1</sup>[2.] 3.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.  
26  
27

28  
29  
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Makes \$15 million in federal funds available to EDA and New  
32 Jersey Council on the Arts to support arts and culture organizations  
in need.

# SENATE, No. 3521

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO**

**District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

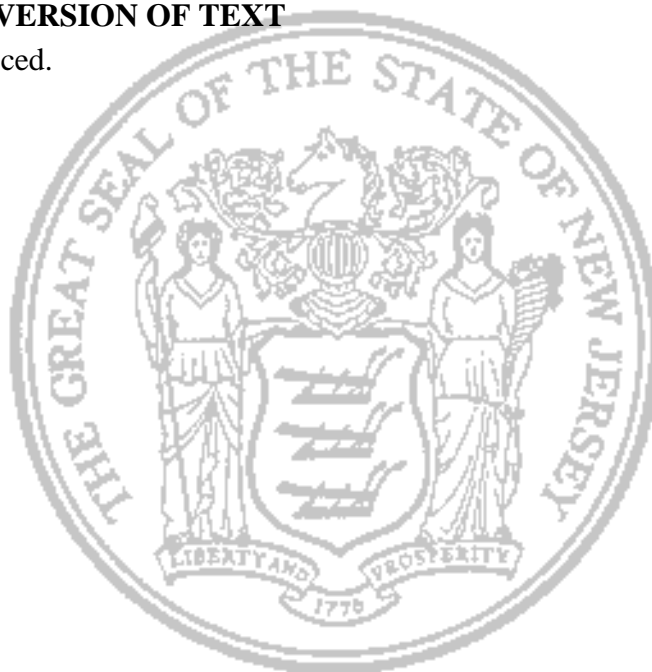
**Senators Ruiz, Thompson, Singleton, Cunningham, Cruz-Perez, Diegnan,  
Greenstein, Oroho, O'Scanlon, Sarlo and Testa**

**SYNOPSIS**

Appropriates \$15 million in federal funds to the EDA to support arts and culture organizations in need.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/22/2021)**

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act,  
2 P.L.2020, c.97.

3

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

6

7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020, c.97,  
8 the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2021, there is  
9 appropriated the following sum for the purpose specified:

10

**82 DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**  
*50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security*  
*51 Economic Planning and Development*

GRANTS-IN-AID

38-2043 Economic Development ..... \$15,000,000

Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation,  
Economic Planning and Development..... \$15,000,000

**Grants-in-Aid:**

38 Coronavirus Relief Fund – Assistance to Arts  
and Culture Organizations, EDA..... (\$15,000,000)

11

12 The amount hereinabove appropriated for Coronavirus Relief Fund  
13 –Assistance to Arts and Culture, EDA shall be allocated from a  
14 portion of federal block grant funds allocated to the State from  
15 the federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund” established pursuant to the  
16 federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act  
17 (CARES Act),” Pub.L.116-136, or any other federal funds made  
18 available to the State in response to the coronavirus disease 2019  
19 (COVID-19) pandemic.

20

21 The amount hereinabove appropriated for Coronavirus Relief Fund  
22 – Assistance to Arts and Culture, EDA shall be allocated by the  
23 New Jersey Economic Development Authority to arts and  
24 cultural organizations in the State; provided that, not less than  
25 \$7,500,000 shall be allocated to the New Jersey Council on the  
26 Arts for the purposes of issuing grants to nonprofit arts and  
27 cultural entities. The New Jersey Economic Development  
28 Authority shall establish minimum grant eligibility criteria and  
29 the size of the grant awards to meet the needs of the grantee  
30 entities in responding to the public health crisis.

31

32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

33

34

STATEMENT

35

36  
37 This bill appropriates \$15 million in federal funds to the  
38 Economic Development Authority (EDA) to award grants for the

**S3521 LAGANA, ADDIEGO**

3

1 public purpose of supporting an important part of the State's  
2 economy affected by the public health crisis. The grants will be  
3 awarded by the EDA to arts and culture organizations in need of  
4 support as a result of the public health crisis.



# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3521**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 22, 2021

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3521, with committee amendments.

As amended, the bill makes \$15 million in federal funds available to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the New Jersey Council on the Arts (“council”) to award grants to arts and culture organizations who are in need of support as a result of the public health crisis. Specifically, the bill makes available \$7.5 million to the EDA for for-profit organizations and \$7.5 million to the council for non-profit organizations. The EDA and council may also use up to five percent of these funds to support administrative expenses.

The bill also allows the EDA to transfer the uncommitted balance of these funds to certain other programs administered by the authority using federal COVID-19 response funding. However, the EDA would be required to submit notice of the transfer to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) restructure the bill such that it is not a supplemental appropriation, but rather makes funding available for the bill’s designated purpose;

(2) make \$7.5 million in federal funding directly available to the council. As introduced, the bill would have made these funds available to the EDA and required the authority to allocate such funding to the council;

(3) allow the EDA and council to use up to five percent of the federal funds to support administrative expenses incurred in the implementation of the bill;

(4) allow the EDA to transfer the uncommitted balance of federal funds to certain other programs administered by the authority using federal COVID-19 response funding, provided that the EDA submit notice to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee; and

(5) define the terms “arts and culture for-profit organization” and “performing arts or artist.”

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5447

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 8, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER**  
**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**  
**Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING**  
**District 11 (Monmouth)**  
**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**  
**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie, Assemblymen Johnson, Zwicker, Verrelli and Assemblywoman Dunn**

**SYNOPSIS**

Appropriates \$15 million in federal funds to the EDA to support arts and culture organizations in need.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/8/2021)

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act,  
2 P.L.2020, c.97.

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

6  
7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020, c.97,  
8 the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2021, there is  
9 appropriated the following sum for the purpose specified:  
10

**82 DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**  
*50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security*  
*51 Economic Planning and Development*

GRANTS-IN-AID

38-2043	Economic Development .....	\$15,000,000
Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation, Economic Planning and Development.....		\$15,000,000

**Grants-in-Aid:**

38 Coronavirus Relief Fund – Assistance to Arts  
and Culture Organizations, EDA..... (\$15,000,000)

11  
12 The amount hereinabove appropriated for Coronavirus Relief Fund  
13 –Assistance to Arts and Culture, EDA shall be allocated from a  
14 portion of federal block grant funds allocated to the State from  
15 the federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund” established pursuant to the  
16 federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act  
17 (CARES Act),” Pub.L.116-136, or any other federal funds made  
18 available to the State in response to the coronavirus disease 2019  
19 (COVID-19) pandemic.

20  
21 The amount hereinabove appropriated for Coronavirus Relief Fund  
22 – Assistance to Arts and Culture, EDA shall be allocated by the  
23 New Jersey Economic Development Authority to arts and  
24 cultural organizations in the State; provided that, not less than  
25 \$7,500,000 shall be allocated to the New Jersey Council on the  
26 Arts for the purposes of issuing grants to nonprofit arts and  
27 cultural entities. The New Jersey Economic Development  
28 Authority shall establish minimum grant eligibility criteria and  
29 the size of the grant awards to meet the needs of the grantee  
30 entities in responding to the public health crisis.

31  
32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

33  
34 STATEMENT

35  
36 This bill appropriates \$15 million in federal funds to the  
37 Economic Development Authority (EDA) to award grants for the

**A5447 CARTER, HOUGHTALING**

3

1 public purpose of supporting an important part of the State's  
2 economy affected by the public health crisis. The grants will be  
3 awarded by the EDA to arts and culture organizations in need of  
4 support as a result of the public health crisis.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5447**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 8, 2021

The Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5447.

This bill, as amended, makes \$15 million in federal funds available to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to award grants to arts and culture organizations who are in need of support as a result of the public health crisis, including \$7.5 million to the New Jersey Council on the Arts for the purposes of issuing grants to nonprofit arts and culture entities.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill so that it is not a supplemental appropriation, but rather makes funding available for the bill's designated purpose.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 5447

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 17, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5447 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill makes \$15 million in federal funds available to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the New Jersey Council on the Arts (“council”) to award grants to arts and culture organizations who are in need of support as a result of the public health crisis. Specifically, the bill makes available \$7.5 million to the EDA for for-profit organizations and \$7.5 million to the council for non-profit organizations. The EDA and council may also use up to five percent of these funds to support administrative expenses.

The bill also allows the EDA to transfer the uncommitted balance of these funds to certain other programs administered by the authority using federal COVID-19 response funding. However, the EDA would be required to submit notice of the transfer to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) make \$7.5 million in federal funding directly available to the council. As introduced, the bill would have made these funds available to the EDA and required the authority to allocate such funding to the council;

(2) allow the EDA and council to use up to five percent of the federal funds to support administrative expenses incurred in the implementation of the bill; and

(3) allow the EDA to transfer the uncommitted balance of federal funds to certain other programs administered by the authority using federal COVID-19 response funding, provided that the EDA submit notice to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Providing \$15 Million in Aid to Arts and Cultural Venues

04/8/2021

*Legislation is Part of a \$100 Million Relief Package for New Jersey Small Businesses*

**LONG BRANCH** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed into law S-3521, which provides \$15 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid for arts and cultural venues throughout New Jersey. The bill – sponsored by Senators Joseph Lagana, Dawn Marie Addiego, and Vin Gopal and Assembly Members Linda Carter, Angela McKnight, and Eric Houghtaling – focuses on providing aid to arts and cultural organizations in need of support as a result of the public health emergency. The bill is part of a five-bill, \$100 million relief effort aimed at helping New Jersey’s small businesses recover from the year-long pandemic.

“Our arts and cultural establishments are among the best in the nation, but they have faced difficult challenges over the past year,” **said Governor Murphy**. “It’s time we lifted up these organizations and venues to ensure they are still with us as we emerge from the pandemic and look to once again experience the joy they offer.”

“We are grateful that Governor Murphy and our state legislature value the arts and are entrusting the Arts Council to make these critical investments in a comprehensive, equitable statewide recovery,” **said Secretary of State Tahesha Way**, whose department includes the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. “These relief dollars will put thousands back to work, boost the economy, and help ensure New Jersey’s arts industry survives to safely do what they do best – bring people together to dream, learn, heal and create.”

“One of the greatest sacrifices the COVID-19 pandemic has required is the significant scaling back of in-person art events and performances. This has been a loss for our communities, our culture, and most of all performers and the venues that host them,” **said NJEDA Chief Executive Officer Tim Sullivan**. “The bill Governor Murphy has signed today will be crucial to ensuring we maintain and grow the thriving creative communities that make New Jersey special as we recover from the pandemic.”

“Arts and culture organizations are at the cornerstone of our communities. They give residents a space to gather, express themselves creatively and explore their passions,” **said Senator Addiego**. “Without the presence of these organizations, we would lose a large part of what makes a community a home. With this funding, we can save many of these organizations on the brink of closing for good, allowing them to thrive during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“We all know that in difficult times, the arts, and cultural organizations that support the arts, are among the first parts of society to suffer,” **said Senator Gopal**. “One need look no further than the Theater District in New York City to see the devastating effect the pandemic had on those who produce, work and perform in Broadway shows. We have many wonderful arts and cultural programs in the Garden State, as well, and we need to do all we can to lift them up as they struggle to regain their footing in what is still a difficult and logistically trying time.”

“New Jersey has long been a leader in the arts and culturally significant work,” **said Senator Lagana**. “Without local organizations who support the arts, we would lose so much of what gives our communities character and makes them great places to live. Through this bill, we can save many of these organizations from shutting down forever, and set them up to thrive again after the pandemic.”

“New Jersey prides itself on a rich arts and culture scene, with more than 700 organizations calling our state home. Over the years, our museums, theaters, galleries and music venues have showcased true talent, launched the careers of successful artists, preserved history and provided entertainment to visitors, said **Assembly Members Carter, McKnight and Houghtaling**. “We must show our support now, while many are struggling to remain open, to ensure arts and culture can continue to play an important role in our state. This funding lets us look forward to the unforgettable experiences these organizations will once again provide after the pandemic has ended.”

The relief aid will be administered by both the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Specifically, the bill makes available \$7.5 million to the EDA for for-profit organizations and \$7.5 million to the State Council on the Arts for non-profit organizations. To date, the NJEDA has distributed more than \$250 million in aid to some 55,000 businesses across the state.

The signing was held at the West End Arts Center in Long branch and hosted by the New Jersey Repertory Company, which was founded in 1997 in an effort to develop and produce new plays and to make a lasting contribution to the American stage.



## This Week in NJ: April 9th, 2021

04/9/2021



### Governor Murphy Announces All Individuals Age 16 and Older Will be Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination on April 19

Governor Phil Murphy announced that all individuals ages 16 and older will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination on April 19 – two weeks ahead of the state's initial target of May 1. New Jersey's phased vaccination roll out has successfully administered 4.7 million doses of vaccine to essential frontline workers, educators, high-risk groups, and other eligible adults who live, work, or study in the state.

"Over the last several months, our Administration has worked closely with our communities and federal partners to ensure an efficient, accessible, and equitable vaccination program," said **Governor Murphy**. "Together, we have administered 4.7 million doses of vaccine and opened more than 750 vaccination sites across the state, with 98.7 percent of all New Jerseyans living within five miles of where they can receive a vaccine. With an expected increase in vaccine allocation from the federal government, coupled with our extensive network of vaccination distribution sites, we can confidently expand our eligibility to all individuals ages 16 and older who live, work, or study in New Jersey on April 19."

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### Governor Murphy Marks Beginning of Testing for NJ TRANSIT Dual-Power Locomotives

Governor Murphy, NJ TRANSIT Chair Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, NJ TRANSIT President & CEO Kevin Corbett, and local officials marked the beginning of testing of the first of 25 new ALP-45 dual-power locomotives manufactured by Alstom during a ceremony that was held on Track A at Newark Penn Station.

"Since day one, our administration has been committed to building a better, more reliable, and sustainable NJ TRANSIT," said **Governor Murphy**. "This locomotive is the first of 25 that will reinvigorate the NJ TRANSIT fleet with new, environmentally-friendly equipment. New Jersey commuters deserve only the best, and that is what we are delivering to them today."

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### Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Providing \$15 Million in Aid to Arts and Cultural Venues

Governor Phil Murphy signed into law S-3521, which provides \$15 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid for arts and cultural venues throughout New Jersey.

“Our arts and cultural establishments are among the best in the nation, but they have faced difficult challenges over the past year,” said **Governor Murphy**. “It’s time we lifted up these organizations and venues to ensure they are still with us as we emerge from the pandemic and look to once again experience the joy they offer.”

[READ MORE](#)



### Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Providing \$35 Million in Aid to Restaurants

Governor Phil Murphy signed into law A-5444, which provides \$35 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid for restaurants throughout New Jersey. The bill is part of a five-bill, \$100 million relief effort aimed at helping New Jersey’s small businesses recover from the year-long pandemic.

“For the past year, our restaurants have fought the good fight, and we know that fight has not been easy,” said **Governor Murphy**. “This legislation will provide a much-needed lifeline to small business owners, who, through no fault of their own, have been devastated by this pandemic.”

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### : Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal Release Recommendations of Interagency Working Group on Body Worn Cameras

Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal released the final report of the Interagency Working Group on Body Worn Cameras.

“We welcome the recommendations of the working group, which focus on ways for government and police to work together to save money in purchasing body worn cameras and the related technology needed to operate them,” said **Governor Murphy**. “Because of their power to promote transparency and accountability, body worn cameras are a vital tool for building trust between our police officers and the diverse communities they serve— a trust shaken by the racial injustices we have witnessed across the United States. New Jersey proudly leads the nation when it comes to policing reforms designed to serve fairness, justice, and the safety of residents and officers alike.”

“We will carefully review these recommendations as we work to support police departments in the statewide deployment of these important devices,” said **Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal**. “Body worn cameras have the support of police as well as the public, because the accountability they provide is mutual— everyone behaves better when they know they are on camera. Body cameras not only promote safer and more professional law enforcement interactions, they assist police in gathering evidence and serve to reduce unfounded complaints against officers. Officers report that body-worn cameras can even help to de-escalate volatile situations.”

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