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(County Food Distribution law)

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LAWS OF:

1994

CHAPTER: 98

BILL NO:

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SPONSOR(S):

Haines, Singer and Case

DATE INTRODUCED:

May 5, 1994

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:

SENATE:

Senior Citizens

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: First reprint enacted

Yes

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DATE OF PASSAGE:

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June 27, 1994

SENATE:

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August 11, 1994

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SPONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

No

SENATE:

Yes

FISCAL NOTE:

No

VETO MESSAGE:

No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

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[FIRST REPRINT] SENATE, No. 930

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1994

By Senators HAINES and SINGER

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of county food distribution 2 authorities and supplementing Title 1 [4] $\underline{40}^{1}$ of the Revised 3 Statutes.

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

- 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the ¹["county food distribution authorities law."] "County Food Distribution Authorities Law." ¹
 - 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- a. There is a need to establish, construct and develop regional food processing and distribution centers in the various counties of the State; and
- b. These regional centers will stimulate additional economic development in the State by assisting businesses and generating new jobs; and
 - c. These centers are expected to provide substantial benefits to the fishing industry in the State and to enhance the extensive farming industry, especially in southern and central New Jersey, by providing the means to meet the rapidly growing demands for food in these areas.
 - 3. As used in this act:
- "Authority" means a county food distribution authority created pursuant to section 4 of this act.
- "Bonds" means bonds issued by the authority pursuant to this act.
- "Center" means a county food processing and distribution center authorized under section 6 of this act.
- ¹"Local Finance Board" means the Local Finance Board, in the Division of Local Government Services, in the Department of Community Affairs. ¹
- "Notes" means notes issued by the authority pursuant to this act.
- 4. ¹[The] <u>a. Upon approval by the Local Finance Board, pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-4; C.40A:5A-5) the¹ governing body of a county may by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, create a public body corporate and politic under and pursuant to this act, under the ¹[name and style] title¹ of "the......county food distribution authority," with all or any significant part of the name of the county inserted. The body shall consist of the 5 members, who shall be residents of the county and be appointed by ordinance or resolution of the governing body as hereinafter provided, and it shall constitute the authority contemplated and provided for in this act and an agency</u>

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or instrumentality of the county. Copies of the ordinance or resolution for the creation of the authority, certified by the clerk of the governing body, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State and in the office of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs. A copy of any such certified ordinance or resolution, duly certified by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, shall be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding and shall be conclusive evidence of due and proper adoption and filing thereof as provided in this section. After such filing in the office of the Secretary of State, a copy of the ordinance or resolution shall be published at least once in a newspaper published or circulating in the county, together with a notice stating the fact and date of its adoption and the date of the first publication of such notice. If no action questioning the validity of the creation or establishment of the authority shall be commenced within 45 days after the first publication of such notice, then the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have been validly created and established and authorized to transact business and exercise powers as a public body created pursuant to this act.

¹b. Upon approval by the Local Finance Board pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-20), the governing body of any county which has created an authority pursuant to this act may be ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, dissolve such authority if either (1) such authority has no debts or obligations outstanding, or (2) all creditors or other obligees of the authority have consented to the ordinance or resolution. A copy of any ordinance or resolution, certified by the clerk of the governing body, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State and in the office of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs. Upon proof of such filing and upon proof either that the authority had no debts or obligations outstanding at the time of the adoption of such ordinance or resolution or that the assumption of any such debts or obligations has been provided for in the ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, and that all creditors or other obligees of the authority have consented to such ordinance or resolution, the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have been lawfully and properly dissolved. Thereupon, all right, title and interest in and to the property of the authority shall be vested in the county, except that any particular property shall vest in any other governmental unit or person if the terms of any lease or other agreement of the authority with respect thereto shall so provide. A copy of any such certified ordinance or resolution, duly certified by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, shall be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding and shall be conclusive evidence of due and proper adoption and filing thereof as aforesaid.

c. The members first appointed shall, by the resolution of appointment, be designated to serve for terms respectively expiring on the first days of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth Februarys next ensuing after the date of their appointment. On or after January 1 in each year after such first appointments, one person shall be appointed as a member of the authority for a

term commencing on or after February 1 in such year and expiring on February 1 in the fourth year after such year. Each member shall hold office for the term of appointment and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the membership of the authority during an unexpired term shall be filled by appointment of a person as member for the unexpired term. A copy of any resolution appointing any such members, certified by the clerk of the governing body, may be filed in the office of the Secretary of State and in the office of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs. A copy of any such certified resolution, duly certified by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, shall be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding and shall be conclusive evidence of due and proper adoption and filing thereof as aforesaid and, except in an action or proceeding seeking only exclusion of the appointee from office, shall be conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of the members named therein.

- d. Every authority, upon the first appointment of its members and thereafter on or after February 1 in each year, shall annually elect from among its members a chairman and a vice chairman who shall hold office until February 1 next ensuing and until their respective successors shall have been appointed and qualified.
- e. The powers of an authority shall be vested in the members thereof in office from time to time, and a majority of the entire authorized voting membership of the authority shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the authority at any meeting of the members thereof by the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members present, unless in any case the bylaws of the authority shall require a larger number.
- f. The members of an authority shall serve without compensation, but the authority may reimburse its members for necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.
- g. No member of the governing body of the county shall be appointed as a member of, or employed by, an authority; but the governing body of the county may, by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, provide that, in addition to the members appointed pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the county executive in the case of a county having adopted article 3 of the "Optional County Charter Law," P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-31 et seq.), the county manager in the case of a county having adopted article 4 of that act (C.40:41A-38 et seq.), the county supervisor in the case of a county having adopted article 5 of that act (C.40:41A-59 et seq.), or the president of the board of chosen freeholders in the case of any other county, shall be appointed to serve ex officio, as a non-voting member of an authority.
- h. A member of an authority may be removed by the governing body of the county for incapacity, inefficiency or neglect of duty or misconduct in office or other disqualifying cause and after he shall have been given a copy of the charges against him and, not sooner than 10 days thereafter, been afforded opportunity for a hearing, in person or by counsel, by such governing body with respect to such charges. ¹

- 5. Except as otherwise limited by this act ¹and the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Act" P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.)¹, the authority shall have power:
 - a. To sue and be sued;

- b. To have an official seal and alter it at pleasure;
- c. To make and alter by-laws for its organization and internal management and for the conduct of its affairs and business;
- d. To maintain an office at a place within the county as it may determine;
- e. To acquire, hold, use and dispose of its income, revenues, funds and moneys;
 - f. To acquire, lease as lessee or lessor, rent, lease, hold, use and dispose of real or personal property for its purposes;
 - g. To borrow money and to issue its negotiable bonds or notes and to secure them by a mortgage on its property or any part thereof and otherwise to provide for and secure the payment of them and to provide for the rights of the holders of the bonds or notes;
 - h. ¹[To] <u>Pursuant to the provisions of the "Local Public Contracts Law," P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq), to 1 make and enter into all contracts, leases, and agreements for the use or occupancy of the center or any part of it or which are necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers under this act;</u>
 - ¹[i. To make low-interest loans to qualified persons to assist them in the development, construction, reconstruction and improvement of the center, upon terms and conditions as the authority may determine;
 - j. To guarantee and insure loans made by private financial institutions to qualified persons upon terms and conditions as the authority determines; l^1
 - ${}^{1}[k.]$ <u>i.</u> 1 To make surveys, maps, plans for, and estimates of the cost of, the center;
 - ¹[1.] <u>j.</u> ¹ To establish, acquire, construct, or lease the right to construct, rehabilitate, repair, improve, own, operate, and maintain the center, and let, award and enter into construction contracts, purchase orders and other contracts with respect to the center as the authority shall determine;
 - 1 [m.] $\underline{k.}^{1}$ To fix and revise from time to time and charge and collect rents, tolls, fees and charges for the use, occupancy or services of the center or any part thereof or for admission thereto, and for the grant of concessions therein and for things furnished or services rendered by the authority;
 - 1 [n.] $\underline{l.}^{1}$ To establish and enforce rules and regulations for the use or operation of the center or the conduct of its activities, and provide for the policing and the security of the center;
 - ¹[o.] m.¹ To acquire in the name of the authority by purchase or otherwise, on terms and conditions and in a manner it deems proper, or, except with respect to the State ¹and, as further provided in this subsection¹, by the exercise of the power of eminent domain, any land and other property, including land under water, and riparian rights, which it may determine is reasonably necessary for the center or for the relocation or reconstruction of any highway by the authority and any rights,

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title and interest in the land and other property, including public lands, reservations, highways or parkways, owned by or in which the State or any county or municipality, public corporation, or other political subdivision of the State has any right, title or interest, or parts thereof or rights therein and any fee simple absolute or any lesser interest in private property, and any fee simple or absolute interest in, easements upon or the benefit of restrictions upon abutting property to preserve and protect the center. Whenever the authority has determined that it is necessary to take any real property for the purposes of the center by the exercise of the power of condemnation, as hereinafter provided, it shall prepare two copies of diagrams, maps or plans designating the general area in which the real property is to be acquired and file one copy thereof in its office and the other copy thereof in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the real property is located. The authority is empowered to acquire and take real property by condemnation, in the manner provided by the "Eminent Domain Act of 1971," P.L.1971, c.361 (C.20:3-1 et seq.) and to that end, may invoke and exercise the power to condemn in the manner or mode of procedure prescribed in that act, except where the provisions of section 8 of this act provide otherwise; and except that, notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of this act, the authority shall not institute any proceeding to acquire or take, by condemnation, any real property within the designated area in the municipality referred to above in this section until after the date of filing in the office of the clerk of the municipality of a certified copy of: (1) a resolution of the authority stating the finding of the authority that it is necessary or convenient to acquire real property in the designated area for facility purposes, and (2) a resolution of the governing body of the municipality expressing its consent to the acquisition of real property in the designated area;

 1 [p.] $\underline{\text{n.}}^{1}$ To provide through its employees, or by the grant of one or more concessions, or in part through its employees and in part by grant of one or more concessions, for the furnishing of services and things for the accommodation of persons admitted to or using the center or any part of it;

¹[q.] <u>o.</u> ¹ To acquire, construct, operate, maintain, improve and make capital contributions to others for transportation and other facilities, services and accommodations for the public using the center and to lease or otherwise contract for its operation;

¹[r.] p.¹ Subject to any agreement with bondholders or noteholders, to invest moneys of the authority not required for immediate use, including proceeds from the sale of any bonds or notes, in ¹[obligations, securities and other investments the authority deems prudent] the manner set forth in N.J.S.40A:5-15¹;

¹[s.] <u>q.</u>¹ To contract for and to accept any gifts or grants or loans of funds or property or financial or other aid in any form from the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or from the State or any agency, instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, or from any other source and to comply, subject to the provisions of this act, with the terms and conditions thereof;

¹[t.] <u>r.</u> ¹ Subject to any agreements with bondholders or

noteholders, to purchase bonds or notes of the authority out of any funds or money of the authority available for those purposes, and to hold, cancel or resell the bonds or notes;

¹[u.] <u>s.</u>¹ To appoint and employ an executive director and additional officers, who need not be members of the authority, and accountants, attorneys, financial advisors or experts and any other officers, agents and employees as it may require and determine their qualifications, terms of office, duties and compensation, all without regard to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes;

¹[v.] <u>t.</u>¹ To do and perform any acts and things authorized by this act under, through, or by means of its officers, agents or employees or by contracts with any person;

¹[w.] <u>u.</u>¹ To procure insurance against any losses in connection with its property, operations or assets in such amounts and from such insurers as it deems desirable;

¹[x. To do anything necessary or convenient to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers granted in this act; and

y.] v.¹ To conduct a study to determine if the center is feasible and thereafter to conduct feasibility studies to identify an appropriate site therefor and thereafter to determine the location, type and character of the center or any part of it and all other matters in connection with all or any part of the center, which shall comply with the provisions of any applicable land use plan, zoning regulation, building code or similar regulation heretofore or hereafter adopted by the State, any municipality, county, public body politic and corporate, or any other political subdivision of the State;

¹[z.] w.¹ (1) To make all purchases, contracts, or agreements 1[where the cost or contract price exceeds the sum of \$7,500, which, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, shall be made, negotiated, or awarded only after public advertisement for bids therefor and shall be awarded to that responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, is most advantageous to the authority, in its judgment, consideration of price and other factors. Any bid may be rejected when the authority determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

Any purchase, contract, or agreement where the cost or contract price is \$7,500 or less may be made, negotiated, or awarded by the authority without advertising and in any manner which the authority, in its judgment, deems necessary to serve its unique interests and purposes and which promotes, whenever practicable, full and free competition, by the acceptance of quotations or proposals or by the use of other suitable methods.

(2) Any purchase, contract, or agreement where the cost or contract price exceeds \$7,500 may be made, negotiated, or awarded by the authority without advertisement for bids when the subject matter is that described in paragraph (3) of this subsection or when the purchase, contract, or agreement is made, negotiated, or awarded under the circumstances described in paragraph (4) of this subsection. In any such instance, the authority may make, negotiate, or award the purchase, contract, or agreement in any manner which the authority deems necessary

to serve its unique interests and purposes and which promotes, whenever practicable, full and free competition by the acceptance of quotations or proposals or by the use of other suitable methods.

- (3) Any purchase, contract, or agreement may be made, negotiated, or awarded pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection when the subject matter consists of:
- (a) Services which are professional or technical in nature or services which are original and creative in character in a recognized field of artistic endeavor;
 - (b) Items which are perishable or subsistence supplies;
- (c) Items which are specialized equipment or specialized machinery necessary to the conduct of authority business;
- (d) Items or services supplied by a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Regulatory Commissioners where tariffs and schedules of the charges made, charged or exacted by the public utility for those items or services are filed with the board:
 - (e) Items which are styled or seasonal wearing apparel; or
- (f) The lease of such office space, office machinery, specialized equipment, buildings or real property as may be required for the conduct of authority business.
- (4) Any purchase, contract, or agreement may be made, negotiated, or awarded pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection above when:
- (a) Standardization of equipment and interchangeability of parts is in the public interest;
 - (b) Only one source of supply or services is available;
- (c) The safety or protection of the authority's or other public property requires;
- (d) The exigency of the authority's service will not admit of advertisement;
- (e) More favorable terms can be obtained from a primary source of supply of an item or service;
- (f) Bid prices, after advertising, are not reasonable or have not been independently arrived at in open competition; but no negotiated purchase, contract, or agreement may be entered into under this subsection after the rejection of all bids received unless (i) notification of the intention to negotiate and reasonable opportunity to negotiate is given to each responsible bidder; (ii) the negotiated price is lower than the lowest rejected bid price of a responsible bidder; and (iii) the negotiated price is the lowest negotiated price offered by any responsible contractor;
- (g) The purchase is to be made from, or the contract is to be made with, the federal or any state government or agency or political subdivision thereof; or
- (h) Purchases made through or by the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1959, c.40 (C.52:27B-56.1).
- (5) In any case where the authority shall make, negotiate, or award a purchase, contract, or agreement without public advertisement pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the authority shall, by resolution passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members, specify the subject matter or

circumstances set forth in paragraphs (3) and (4) which permit the authority to take such action.

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- (6) Nothing herein shall prevent the authority from having any work done by its own employees.
- (7) The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of each even-numbered year, adjust the threshold amount set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this paragraph, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers in the New York City and the Philadelphia areas, as reported by the United States Department of Labor. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of each even-numbered year, notify the authority of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of each even-numbered year] pursuant to the provisions of the "Local Public Contracts Law," P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.; and
- x. To do anything necessary or convenient to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers granted in this act 1.
- 6. a. An authority created pursuant to section 4 of this act is authorized to acquire by purchase, establish, develop, construct, operate, maintain, repair, reconstruct, restore, improve and otherwise effectuate a food processing and distribution center. The center shall be known as the ".....county food processing and distribution center," with all or any significant part of the name of the county inserted, and shall be located in that county of this State. The center shall consist, as the authority may determine, of one or more buildings, structures, facilities, properties and appurtenances incidental and necessary to a center suitable for the processing and distribution of food on a local or regional basis and may include a wholesale produce market and storage, distribution and processing facilities for meat, fish, dairy and other grocery products, beverages and frozen foods, driveways, roads, approaches, parking areas, restaurants, transportation structures, systems and facilities, and equipment, furnishings, and all other structures and appurtenant facilities related to, necessary for, or complementary to the purposes of the center or any facility thereof. The authority may construct on the site other facilities consistent with the purposes for which the authority was established. As part of the center the authority is authorized to make capital contributions to others for transportation and other facilities, and accommodations for the public using the center. Any part of the site not occupied or to be occupied by facilities of the center may be leased by the authority for purposes determined by the authority to be consistent with or related to the purposes of the center. In addition, the authority may contract with any person for the development of any of the facilities to be a part of the center and may provide for the financing of the acquisition of any real property or of any construction.
- b. Revenues, moneys or other funds, if any, derived from the operation or ownership of the center, shall be applied in accordance with the resolution or resolutions authorizing or relating to the issuance of bonds or notes of the authority to the

following purposes and in the following order:

- ¹[(1) The costs of operation and maintenance of the center and reserves therefor;
- (2)] (1)¹ Principal, sinking fund installments and redemption of and interest on any bonds or notes of the authority issued for the purposes of the center or for the purpose of refunding the same, including reserves therefor;
- ¹(2) The costs of operation and maintenance of the center and reserves therefor; ¹
- (3) The costs of any major or extraordinary repairs, renewals or replacements with respect to the center or incidental improvements to it not paid pursuant to paragraph (1) above, including reserves therefor;
- (4) Payments required to be made pursuant subsection b. of section 16 of this act;
- (5) Payments authorized to be made pursuant to subsection c. of section 16 of this act;
- (6) The balance remaining after application in accordance with the above shall be deposited 1 [in the General Fund] according to the terms of the bond resolution 1 .
- 7. a. If the authority shall find it necessary in connection with the undertaking of the center to change the location of any portion of any public highway or road, it may contract with any government agency, or public or private corporation which may have jurisdiction over the public highway or road to cause the public highway or road to be constructed at a location the authority deems most favorable. The cost of the reconstruction and any damage incurred in changing the location of the highway shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the center. Any public highway affected by the construction of the center may be vacated or relocated by the authority in the manner now provided by law for the location or relocation of public roads, and any damages awarded as a result shall be paid by the authority as part of the cost of the center. In all undertakings authorized by this subsection the authority shall and obtain the approval of the Department of consult Transportation.
- b. In addition to the foregoing powers, the authority and its authorized agents and employees may enter upon any lands, waters and premises for the purpose of making surveys, soundings, drillings and examinations as it may deem necessary or convenient for the purposes of this act, all in accordance with due process of law, and the entry shall not be deemed a trespass nor shall an entry for that purpose be deemed an entry under any condemnation proceedings which may be then pending. The authority shall make reimbursement for any actual damages resulting to the lands, waters and premises as a result of its activities.
- c. The authority shall also have power to make reasonable regulations for the installation, construction, maintenance, repair, renewal, relocation and removal of tracks, pipes, mains, conduits, cables, wires, towers, poles and other equipment and appliances, herein called "public utility facilities," of any public utility as defined in R.S.48:2-13, in, on, along, over or under the

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Whenever the authority shall determine that it is necessary that public utility facilities which now are, or hereafter may be, located in, on, along, over or under the center shall be relocated in the center, or should be removed therefrom, the public utility owning or operating the facilities shall relocate or remove the same in accordance with the order of the authority. The cost and expenses of the relocation or removal, including the cost of installing the facilities in a new location, or new locations, and the cost of any lands, or any rights or interests in lands and any other rights, acquired to accomplish the relocation or removal, shall be ascertained and paid by the authority as a part of the cost of the center. In case of any relocation or removal of facilities, as aforesaid, the public utility owning or operating the same, its successors or assigns may maintain and operate the facilities, with the necessary appurtenances, in the new location or new locations, for as long a period, and upon the same terms and conditions, as it had the right to maintain and operate the facilities in their former location or locations. In all undertakings authorized by this subsection the authority shall consult and obtain the approval of the Board of Regulatory Commissioners .

8. a. Upon the exercise of the power of eminent domain, the compensation to be paid thereunder shall be ascertained and paid in the manner provided in the "Eminent Domain Act of 1971," P.L.1971, c.361 (C.20:3-1 et seq.), insofar as the provisions thereof are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions contained in this act. The authority may join in separate subdivisions in one petition or complaint the descriptions of any number of tracts or parcels of land or property to be condemned, if each tract or parcel lies wholly in or has a substantial part of its value lying wholly within the same county, and the names of any number of owners and other parties who may have an interest therein and all the land or property included in the petition or complaint may be condemned in a single proceeding; but separate awards shall be made for each tract or parcel of land or property.

b. Upon the filing of the petition or complaint or at any time thereafter the authority may file with the clerk of the county in which the property is located and also with the clerk of the Superior Court a declaration of taking, signed by the authority, declaring that possession of one or more of the tracts or parcels of land or property described in the petition or complaint is being taken by and for the use of the authority. The declaration of taking shall be sufficient if it sets forth: (1) a description of each tract or parcel of land or property to be taken sufficient for the identification of it, to which there shall be attached a plan or map thereof; (2) a statement of the estate or interest in the land or property being taken; (3) a statement of the sum of money estimated by the authority by resolution to be just compensation for the taking of the estate or interest in each tract or parcel of land or property described in the declaration; and (4) that, in compliance with the provisions of this act, the authority has established and is maintaining a trust fund as hereinafter provided.

c. Upon the filing of the declaration, the authority shall

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deposit with the clerk of the Superior Court the amount of the estimated compensation stated in the declaration. In addition to the deposits with the clerk of the Superior Court the authority shall maintain a special trust fund on deposit with a bank or trust company doing business in the State in an amount at least equal to twice the aggregate amount deposited with the clerk of the Superior Court, as estimated compensation for all property described in declarations of taking with respect to which the compensation has not been finally determined and paid to the persons entitled thereto or into court. The trust fund shall consist of cash or securities readily convertible into cash constituting legal investment for trust funds under the laws of the State. The trust fund shall be held solely to secure and may be applied to the payment of just compensation for the land or other property described in the declarations of taking. The authority shall be entitled to withdraw from the trust fund from time to time so much as may then be in excess of twice the aggregate of the amount deposited with the clerk of the Superior Court as estimated compensation for all property described in declarations of taking with respect to which the compensation has not been finally determined and paid to the persons entitled thereto or into

d. Upon the filing of the declaration ¹[as aforesaid] of taking pursuant to subsection b. of this section ¹ and depositing with the clerk of the Superior Court the amount of the estimated compensation stated in the declaration, the authority, without other process or proceedings, shall be entitled to the exclusive possession and use of each tract of land or property described in the declaration and may forthwith enter into and take possession of the land or property, it being the intent of this provision that the proceedings for compensation or any other proceedings relating to the taking of the land or interest therein or other property shall not delay the taking of possession thereof and the use thereof by the authority for the purposes for which the authority is authorized by law to acquire or condemn the land or other property or interest in it.

e. The authority shall cause notice of the filing of the declaration and the making of the deposit to be served upon each party in interest named in the petition residing in the State, either personally or by leaving a copy at his residence, if known, and upon each party in interest residing out of the State, by mailing a copy to him at his residence, if known. If the residence of the party or the name of the party is unknown, notice shall be published at least once in a newspaper published or circulating in the counties in which the land is located. Service, mailing or publication shall be made within 10 days after filing the declaration. Upon the application of any party in interest and after notice to other parties in interest, including the authority, any judge of the Superior Court assigned to sit for that county may order that the money deposited with the clerk of the Superior Court or any part thereof be paid forthwith to the persons entitled thereto for or on account of the just compensation to be awarded in the proceeding, provided each person files with the clerk of the Superior Court a consent in

writing that, if the award in the condemnation proceeding shall be less than the amount deposited, the court, after notice as 1 [herein] 1 provided 1 in this subsection 1 and hearing, may determine his liability, if any, for the return of the difference or any part of it and enter judgment therefor. If the amount of the award as finally determined shall exceed the amount so deposited, the person to whom the award is payable shall be entitled to recover from the authority the difference between the amount of the deposit and the amount of the award, with interest at the then legal rate from the date of making the deposit. If the amount of the award shall be less than the amount so deposited, the clerk of the Superior Court shall return the difference between the amount of the award and the deposit to the authority, unless the amount of the deposit or any part of it shall have theretofore been distributed, in which event the court, on petition of the authority and notice to all persons interested in the award and affording them an opportunity to be heard, shall enter judgment in favor of the authority for the difference against the parties liable for the return. The authority shall cause notice of the date fixed for the hearing to be served upon each party residing in the State, either personally or by leaving a copy at his residence, if known, and upon each party residing out of the State, by mailing a copy to him at his residence, if known. If the residence of any party or the name of the party is unknown, notice shall be published at least once in a newspaper published or circulating in the counties in which the land is located. Service, mailing or publication shall be made at least 10 days before the date fixed for the hearing.

Whenever under the "Eminent Domain Act of 1971," P.L.1971, c.361 (C.20:3-1 et seq.) the amount of the award may be paid into court, payment may be made into the Superior Court and may be distributed according to law. The authority shall not abandon any condemnation proceeding subsequent to the date upon which it has taken possession of the land or property as herein provided.

9. a. The authority is authorized from time to time to issue its bonds or notes in principal amounts which in the opinion of the authority shall be necessary to provide sufficient funds for any of its corporate purposes, including the payment, funding or refunding of the principal of, or interest or redemption premiums on, any bonds or notes issued by it, whether the bonds or notes or interest to be funded or refunded have or have not become due, the establishment or increase of the reserves to secure or to pay the bonds or notes or interest and all other costs or expenses of the authority incident to and necessary to carry out its corporate purposes and powers.

b. Except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this act or by the authority, every issue of bonds or notes shall be general obligations payable out of any revenues or funds of the authority, subject only to any agreements with the holders of particular bonds or notes pledging any particular revenues or funds. The authority may issue types of bonds or notes as it may determine, including, but not limited to, bonds or notes as to which the principal and interest are payable (1) exclusively from the revenues and receipts of the part of the center financed with the

proceeds of the bonds or notes; (2) exclusively from the revenues and receipts of certain designated parts of the center, whether or not the same are financed in whole or in part from the proceeds of the bonds or notes; or (3) from its revenues and receipts generally. The bonds or notes may be additionally secured by a pledge of any grant, subsidy or contribution from the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof or the State or any agency, instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, or any person, or a pledge of any income or revenues, funds or moneys of the authority from any source whatsoever.

- c. Whether or not the bonds and notes are of a form and character as to be negotiable instruments under the terms of Title 12A of the New Jersey Statutes, the bonds and notes are negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all the purposes of Title 12A, subject only to the provisions of the bonds and notes for registration.
- d. Bonds or notes of the authority shall be authorized by a resolution of the authority and may be issued in one or more series and shall bear the date, mature at the time, bear interest at a rate of interest per annum, be in denominations, be in a form, either coupon or registered, carry any conversion or registration privileges, have rank or priority, be executed in any manner, be payable from any sources in any medium of 1 monetary 1 payment at a place within or without the State, and be subject to the terms of redemption, with or without premium, as the resolution may provide.
- e. Bonds or notes of the authority may be sold at public or private sale at a price and in a manner that the authority determines. Every bond shall mature and be paid not later than 40 years from the date of issue.
- f. Bonds or notes may be issued under the provisions of this act without obtaining the consent of any department, division, commission, board, bureau or agency of the State, and without any other proceedings or the happening of any other conditions or other things than those proceedings, conditions or things which are specifically required by this act.
- g. Bonds and notes of the authority issued under the provisions of this act shall not be a debt or liability of the State or its political subdivisions other than the authority and shall not create or constitute any indebtedness, liability or obligation of the State or of a political subdivision or be or constitute a pledge of the faith and credit of the State or of a political subdivision but the bonds and notes, unless funded or refunded by bonds or notes of the authority, shall be payable solely from revenues or funds pledged or available for their payment as authorized in this act. Each bond and note shall contain on its face a statement to the effect that the authority is obligated to pay its principal or interest only from revenues or funds of the authority and that neither the State nor its political subdivisions are obligated to pay the principal or interest and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State or its political subdivisions is pledged to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds or notes.
 - h. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this

act shall be payable solely from revenues or funds provided or to be provided under the provisions of this act and nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the authority to incur any indebtedness or liability on behalf of or payable by the State or its political subdivisions.

- 10. In any resolution of the authority authorizing or relating to the issuance of any bonds or notes, the authority, in order to secure the payment of the bonds or notes and in addition to its other powers, shall have power by the resolutions which shall constitute covenants by the authority and contracts with the holders of the bonds or notes to:
- a. Pledge all or any part of its rents, fees, tolls, revenues or receipts to which its right then exists or may thereafter come into existence, and the moneys derived therefrom, and the proceeds of any bonds or notes;
- b. Pledge any lease or other agreement or the rents or revenues and their proceeds;
- c. Mortgage all or any part of its property, real or personal, then owned or later acquired;
- d. Covenant against pledging all or any part of its rents, fees, tolls, revenues or receipts or its leases or agreements or rents or other revenues from them or the proceeds of them, or against mortgaging all or any part of its real or personal property then owned or later acquired, or against permitting or suffering any lien on any of the foregoing;
- e. Covenant with respect to limitations on any right to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any project or its parts or any property of any kind;
- f. Covenant as to any bonds and notes to be issued and their limitations, terms and conditions, and as to the custody, application, investment, and disposition of their proceeds;
- g. Covenant as to the issuance of additional bonds or notes or as to limitations on the issuance of additional bonds or notes and on the incurring of other debts by it;
- h. Covenant as to the payment of the principal of or interest on the bonds or notes, or any other obligations, as to the sources and methods of the payment, as to the rank or priority of the bonds, notes or obligations with respect to any lien or security or as to acceleration of the maturity of the bonds, notes or obligations;
- i. Provide for the replacement of lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated bonds or notes;
- j. Covenant against extending the time for the payment of bonds or notes or interest on them;
- k. Covenant as to the redemption of bonds or notes and privileges of their exchange for other bonds or notes of the authority;
- 1. Covenant as to the rates of toll and other charges to be established and charged, the amount to be raised each year or other period of time by tolls or other revenues and as to the use and disposition to be made of them;
- m. Covenant to create or authorize the creation of special funds or moneys to be held in pledge or otherwise for construction, operating expenses, payment or redemption of

bonds or notes, reserves or other purposes and as to the use, investment, and disposition of the moneys held in the funds;

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- n. Establish the procedure, if any, by which the terms of any contract or covenant with or for the benefit of the holders of bonds or notes may be amended or abrogated, the amount of bonds or notes the holders of which shall consent thereto, and the manner in which the consent may be given;
- o. Covenant as to the construction, improvement, operation or maintenance of its real and personal property, its replacement, the insurance to be carried on it, and the use and disposition of insurance moneys;
- p. Provide for the release of property, leases or other agreements, or revenues and receipts from any pledge or mortgage and reserve rights and powers in, or the right to dispose of, property which is subject to a pledge or mortgage;
- q. Provide for the rights and liabilities, powers and duties arising upon the breach of any covenant, condition or obligation and prescribe the events of default and the terms and conditions upon which the bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority shall become or may be declared due and payable before maturity and the terms and conditions upon which any declaration and its consequences may be waived;
- r. Vest in trustees within or without the State property, rights, powers and duties in trust as the authority may determine, including the right to foreclose any mortgage, and limit the rights, duties and powers of a trustee;
- s. Execute mortgages, bills of sale, conveyances, deeds of trust and other instruments necessary or convenient in the exercise of its powers or in the performance of its covenants or duties;
- t. Pay the costs or expenses incident to the enforcement of the bonds or notes or of the provisions of the resolution or of any covenant or agreement of the authority with the holders of its bonds or notes;
- u. Limit the powers of the authority to construct, acquire or operate any structures, facilities or properties which may compete or tend to compete with the center;
- v. Limit the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes to enforce any pledge or covenant securing bonds or notes; and
- w. Make covenants other than in addition to the covenants herein expressly authorized, of like or different character, and to make covenants to do or refrain from doing acts and things as may be necessary, or convenient and desirable, in order to better secure bonds or notes or which, in the discretion of the authority, will tend to make bonds or notes more marketable, notwithstanding that the covenants, acts or things may not be enumerated herein.
- 11. Any pledge of revenues, moneys, funds or other property made by the authority shall be valid and binding from the time when the pledge is made. The revenues, moneys, funds or other property so pledged and thereafter received by the authority shall immediately be subject to the lien of the pledge without any physical delivery or further act, and the lien of the pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any

kind in tort, contract or otherwise against the authority, irrespective of whether the parties have notice thereof. Neither the resolution nor any other instrument by which a pledge of revenues, moneys or funds is created need be filed or recorded except in the records of the authority.

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12. a. The authority may establish reserves, funds or accounts 1, in addition to those required pursuant to subsection b. of section 6 of this act, 1 as it determines necessary or desirable to further the accomplishment of the purposes of the authority 1, to manage any funds that may be received other than those specified in subsection b. of section 6 of this act, 1 or to comply with the provisions of any agreement made by or any resolution of the authority.

b. ¹[The authority may create and establish a reserve fund in connection with the issuance of bonds to finance the initial development of the center, to be known as the debt service reserve fund, and may pay into the reserve fund (1) any moneys appropriated and made available by the county or the State for the purposes of the fund, (2) any proceeds of sale of the bonds, to the extent provided in the resolution of the authority authorizing their issuance, and (3) any other moneys which may be made available to the authority for the purposes of the fund from any other source. The moneys held in or credited to the debt service reserve fund established under this section, except as hereinafter provided, shall be used solely for the payment of the principal of the bonds of the authority secured by the reserve fund, as the same mature or become due, the purchase or retirement of the bonds, the payment of interest on the bonds or the payment of any redemption premium required to be paid when the bonds are redeemed prior to maturity, but moneys in the fund shall not be withdrawn therefrom at any time in an amount that would reduce the amount of the fund to less than the maximum debt service reserve, as hereinafter defined, with respect to the bonds then outstanding and secured by the reserve fund, except for the purpose of paying the principal of, interest on, the premium, if any, on, and the retirement of the bonds secured by the reserve fund maturing or becoming due and for the payment of which other moneys of the authority are not available. Maximum debt service reserve as used in this section means, as of any date of calculation and with respect to the bonds secured by the debt, terms of any contracts of the authority with the holders of the bonds to be provided in any succeeding calendar year for the payment of interest on and serial maturities of the bonds then outstanding and payments required by the terms of any contracts to be made to sinking funds established for the payment or redemption of the bonds, calculated on the assumption that the bonds will cease to be outstanding after the date of the calculation only by reason of the payment of the bonds at their respective maturities and the making of required payments to sinking funds and the application of those funds in accordance with the terms of the contracts to the retirement of the bonds. Any income or interest earned by, or increment to, the debt service reserve fund due to its investment may be transferred to any other fund or account of the authority to the extent it does not reduce the amount of the debt service reserve fund below the maximum debt service reserve with respect to the bonds of the authority then outstanding and secured by the reserve fund.

- c. The authority shall not issue bonds at any time if the maximum debt service reserve with respect to the bonds outstanding and then to be issued and secured by the debt service reserve fund will exceed the amount of the reserve fund at the time of issuance, unless the authority, at the time of issuance of the bonds, shall deposit in the reserve fund from the proceeds of the bonds so to be issued, or otherwise, an amount which, together with the amount then in the reserve fund, will be not less than the maximum debt service reserve with respect to the bonds then to be issued and on all other bonds of the authority then outstanding and secured by the reserve fund.
- To assure the continued operation and solvency of the authority for the carrying out of the public purposes of this act, provision is made in this section for the accumulation in the debt service reserve fund of an amount equal to the maximum debt service reserve with respect to all bonds of the authority then outstanding and secured by the reserve fund. In order further to assure the maintenance of the debt service reserve fund, there shall be annually appropriated and paid to the authority for deposit in the debt service reserve fund a sum, if any, certified by the chairman of the authority to the Governor as necessary to restore the reserve fund to an amount equal to the maximum debt service reserve with respect to the bonds of the authority then outstanding and secured by the reserve fund. The chairman of the authority shall annually, on or before March 1, make and deliver to the Governor his certificate stating the sum, if any, required to restore the debt service reserve fund of the authority to the amount aforesaid, and the sum certified, if any, shall be appropriated and paid to the authority for deposit in the debt service reserve fund of the authority prior to the end of the first calendar month of the next succeeding State fiscal year. Any payments to be made by the State to the authority as aforesaid for deposit in the debt service reserve fund are subject to and dependent upon appropriations being made from time to time by the Legislature for that purpose.
- e. In computing the debt service reserve fund for the purposes of this section, securities in which all or a portion of the debt service reserve fund shall be invested shall be valued at par, or if purchased at less than par, at their cost to the authority.
- f.]¹ Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to cause the bonds or notes of the authority to be a debt or a liability of the State or its political subdivisions other than the authority, and the bonds and notes of the authority ¹[, whether or not payable from the debt service reserve fund created pursuant to this section,]¹ shall not create or constitute any indebtedness, liability or obligation of this State or any political subdivision or be or constitute a pledge of the faith and credit of the State or its political subdivisions.
- 13. a. The State pledges to and covenants and agrees with the holders of any bonds or notes issued pursuant to this act that the State will not limit or alter the rights or powers vested in the

 authority to acquire, construct, maintain, improve, repair and operate the center in any way that would jeopardize the interest of those holders, or to perform and fulfill the terms of any agreement made with the holders of the bonds or notes, or to fix, establish, charge and collect rents, fees, rates or other charges as may be convenient or necessary to produce sufficient revenues to meet all expenses of the authority and fulfill the terms of any agreement made with the holders of the bonds and notes, together with interest thereon, with interest on any unpaid installments of interest, and all costs and expenses in connection with any action or proceedings by or on behalf of the holders, until the bonds, together with interest thereon, are fully met and discharged or provided for.

- b. The State shall have the right, upon furnishing the authority with sufficient funds, to require the authority to redeem, pay or cause to be paid, at or prior to maturity, in whole or in part, any bonds issued by the authority under this act, provided the redemption or payment is made in accordance with the provision of any contract entered into by the authority with the holders of the bonds.
- 14. The State and all public officers, governmental units and agencies thereof, all banks, trust companies, savings banks and institutions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, investment companies, and other persons carrying on a banking business, all insurance companies, insurance associations and other persons carrying on an insurance business, and all executors, administrators, guardians, trustees and other fiduciaries may legally invest any sinking funds, moneys or other funds belonging to them or within their control in any bonds or notes issued pursuant to this act, and the bonds or notes shall be authorized security for any public deposits.
- 15. All counties and municipalities and other governmental subdivisions, authorities, and public departments, agencies and commissions of the State, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, are authorized to lease, lend, grant or convey to the authority at its request upon terms and conditions as the governing body or other proper authorities of the counties, municipalities and governmental subdivisions, authorities and departments, agencies or commissions of the State deem reasonable and fair and without the necessity for any advertisement, order of court or other action or formality, other than the authorizing ordinance of the governing body of the municipality, the authorizing resolution of the governing body of the county, or the regular and formal action of any public body concerned, any real property or interest therein which may be necessary or convenient to the effectuation of the purposes of the authority, including public highways and real property already devoted to public use, provided that the real property is located within the site authorized for the center.
- 16. a. All facilities and other property of the authority are declared to be public property devoted to an essential public and governmental function and purpose and shall be exempt from all taxes and special assessments of the State or any political subdivision thereof, but when any part of the center not occupied

or to be occupied by facilities of the center is leased by the authority to another whose property is not exempt and the leasing of which does not make the real estate taxable, the estate created by the lease and its appurtenances shall be listed as the property of the lessee or his assignee, and be assessed and taxed as real estate. All bonds or notes issued pursuant to this act are declared to be issued by a body corporate and politic of the State and for an essential public and governmental purpose and the bonds and notes, and the interest thereon and the income therefrom, and all funds, revenues, income and other moneys received or to be received by the authority and pledged or available to pay or secure the payment of the bonds or notes, or interest thereon, shall be exempt from taxation except for transfer inheritance and estate taxes.

b. To the end that there does not occur an undue loss of future tax revenues by reason of the acquisition of real property by the authority or construction of additional facilities by the authority for the center, the authority annually shall make payments in lieu of taxes to the taxing jurisdiction in which the property is located in an amount computed in each year with respect to each taxing jurisdiction in an amount equal to the taxes which would have been assessed against the property acquired by the authority if the property were not exempt. The payments shall be made in each year commencing with the first year subsequent to the year in which the real property shall have been converted from a taxable to an exempt status by reason of its acquisition by the authority.

- c. The authority is further authorized to enter into any agreement with any county or municipality in the State, whereby the authority will undertake to pay any additional amounts to compensate for any loss of tax revenues by reason of the acquisition of any real property by the authority for the center or to pay amounts to be used by the county or municipality in furtherance of the development of the center. Every county and municipality so located is authorized to enter into these agreements with the authority and to accept payments which the authority makes thereunder.
- 17. ¹[On or before the last day of February in each year the] The authority, shall make an annual report of its activities for [the] its preceding [calendar] fiscal year to the [Governor, to the Legislature and to the governing body of the county which established the authority. The report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year. The authority shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once in each year by certified public accountants and the cost of the audit shall be considered an expense of the authority and a copy of it shall be filed with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Department of the Treasury Local Finance Board, pursuant to the provisions of the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law,"

51 P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.)¹

¹[18. All officers, departments, boards, agencies, divisions and commissions of the State are authorized to render any of their services to the authority as requested. The cost and expense of

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these services shall be met and provided for by the authority.]¹

1[19. It is the intent of the Legislature that if there is a conflict or inconsistency in the provisions of this act and any other acts pertaining to matters herein established or provided for or in any rules and regulations adopted under this act or other acts, to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency, the provisions of this act and the rules and regulations adopted hereunder shall be enforced and the provisions of the other acts and rules and regulations adopted thereunder shall be of no effect.]¹

¹[20.] <u>18.</u> This act shall take effect immediately.

Authorizes counties to establish food distribution authorities.

and the provisions of the other acts and rules and regulations adopted thereunder shall be of no effect.

STATEMENT

20. This act shall take effect immediately.

 This bill authorizes any county in the State to create a five-member county food distribution authority to establish and operate a county food distribution center to serve as a wholesale food outlet which may contain storage, distribution, and processing facilities for produce, meat, fish, dairy and other grocery products, as well as beverages and frozen foods.

Current law authorizes two regional food distribution centers in the State. One center serves the northern New Jersey area pursuant to the Hackensack Meadowlands Food Distribution Center Commission Law, P.L.1983, c.272 (C.13:17A-1 et seq.). A second regional center which is authorized pursuant to the South Jersey Food Distribution Authority Law, P.L.1985, c.383 (C.4:26-1 et seq.), is to be developed at a site to serve the southern New Jersey area. This bill is intended to permit the various counties of the State to develop county food distribution facilities to enhance the extensive farming industry in the State and to meet the rapidly growing demands for food, especially in the central and southern areas of the State, by providing processors and purveyors of food with the capability to meet those demands. The bill is also intended to provide direct economic gains in jobs and services to those counties which establish county food distribution centers.

Authorizes counties to establish food distribution authorities.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 930

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 2, 1994

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans Affairs and Agriculture Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 930 with committee amendments.

This bill would authorize any county in the State to create a five-member county food distribution authority to establish and operate a county food distribution center to serve as a wholesale food outlet which may contain storage, distribution, and processing facilities for produce, meat, fish, dairy and other grocery products, as well as beverages and frozen foods.

Current law authorizes two regional food distribution centers in the State. One center serves the northern New Jersey area pursuant to the "Hackensack Meadowlands Food Distribution Center Commission Law," P.L.1983, c.272 (C.13:17A-1 et seq.). A second regional center, authorized pursuant to the "South Jersey Food Distribution Authority Law," P.L.1985, c.383 (C.4:26-1 et seq.), is to be developed at a site to serve the southern New Jersey area.

The committee adopted amendments which would provide: 1) for the creation, operation and dissolution of a county food distribution authority pursuant to the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law," P.L. 1983, c. 313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq); 2) for the establishment of four year staggered terms for members; 3) for the election of a chairman and vice chairman; 4) that a majority of the authorized voting membership shall constitute a quorum; 5) that members shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses; 6) that certain county officers may serve as ex officio non-voting members; and, 7) that a member may be removed by the governing body of the county for incapacity, inefficiency or neglect of duty or misconduct in office or other disqualifying cause.

The amendments would also change the provisions requiring the authority to award all purchases, contracts or agreements pursuant to the "Local Public Contracts Law," P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.).

Further, the amendments would stipulate that the balance of funds remaining after the payment of operating and maintenance costs, extraordinary repairs, and payments in lieu of taxes or related costs, and after the payment of or provision for debt service, shall be used according to any appropriate terms of authority bond resolutions.

Finally, the amendments would remove the provisions which requires the State to annually appropriate and pay to the authority for deposit in the debt service reserve fund a sum, if any, as necessary to restore the reserve fund to an amount equal to the maximum debt service reserve with respect to the bonds of the authority then outstanding and secured by the reserve fund.