

SENATE, No. 2246

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program in DEP for lake management activities; appropriates \$10 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a grant program for the management and
2 maintenance of lakes, supplementing Title 58 of the Revised
3 Statutes, and making an appropriation.
4

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

8 1. a. There is appropriated the sum of \$10 million annually
9 from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental
10 Protection to provide grants to assist qualified entities to pay for the
11 management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and
12 conservation purposes pursuant to the provisions of this section.

13 b. The amounts appropriated in subsection a. of this section
14 shall be used for providing grants to assist qualified entities to pay
15 for the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and
16 conservation purposes pursuant to the provisions of this section.

17 c. The department shall establish a program for the purpose of
18 providing grants with the moneys appropriated pursuant to
19 subsection a. of this section to assist qualified entities to pay certain
20 costs associated with the management and maintenance of lakes for
21 recreation and conservation purposes.

22 d. In establishing the program required pursuant to this section,
23 the department shall develop criteria for the evaluation and ranking
24 of applications to provide priority to projects:

25 (1) submitted by qualified entities responsible for a lake with
26 public access; and

27 (2) to improve water quality and increase recreational access
28 and use of lakes, including projects to control nutrient levels in
29 lakes in order to prevent future harmful algal blooms.

30 e. A grant issued pursuant to this section may be used for
31 stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management activities
32 that would, as determined by the department, directly enhance,
33 improve, or protect the use of a lake for recreation and conservation
34 purposes.

35 f. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall
36 develop an application by which a qualified entity may apply for a
37 grant pursuant to this section, and criteria by which to rank the
38 applications received by the department. The commissioner shall
39 provide notice of the availability of funding for this program and
40 make the application available on the department's Internet website.

41 g. As used in this section:

42 "Greenwood Lake Commission" means the commission created
43 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1999, c.402 (C.32:20A-3).

44 "Lake Hopatcong Commission" means the commission created
45 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2000, c.175 (C.58:4B-3).

46 "Qualified entity" means: the Greenwood Lake Commission; the
47 Lake Hopatcong Commission; a local government unit; an entity
48 established as a joint meeting pursuant to law, or an entity established

1 pursuant to ordinance by the municipalities surrounding a publicly-
2 accessible lake for the management of the lake, including, but not
3 limited to, the Deal Lake Commission or the Lake Topanemus Park
4 Commission; or a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal
5 taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s.501 (c)(3) and whose mission is the
6 management of a publicly-accessible lake.

7 “Recreation and conservation purposes” means the same as that
8 term is defined in section 3 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-3).

9
10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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13 STATEMENT

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15 This bill would appropriate \$10 million annually to the
16 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to fund the cost of a
17 grant program to assist qualified entities to pay certain costs
18 associated with the management and maintenance of lakes for
19 recreation and conservation purposes.

20 The bill requires the DEP to develop criteria for the evaluation
21 and ranking of applications to provide priority to projects submitted
22 by qualified entities responsible for a lake with public access; and
23 projects to improve water quality and increase recreational access
24 and use of lakes, including projects to control nutrient levels in
25 lakes in order to prevent future harmful algal blooms. The bill
26 provides that a grant issued pursuant to the bill may be used for
27 stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management activities, if
28 the DEP determines that those activities would directly enhance,
29 improve, or protect the use of a lake for recreation and conservation
30 purposes.

31 The bill defines “qualified entity” to mean: the Greenwood Lake
32 Commission; the Lake Hopatcong Commission; a local government
33 unit; an entity established as a joint meeting pursuant to law, or an
34 entity established pursuant to ordinance by the municipalities
35 surrounding a publicly-accessible lake for the management of the
36 lake, including, but not limited to, the Deal Lake Commission or the
37 Lake Topanemus Park Commission; or a nonprofit organization that
38 is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s.501 (c)(3)
39 and whose mission is the management of a publicly-accessible lake.

40 P.L.2021, c.225 made a one-time supplemental appropriation of
41 \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2022 to establish a grant program for this
42 purpose. This bill would make the program permanent.