

SENATE, No. 1879

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
210th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Encourages the recycling and reuse of used computers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the recycling and reuse of used computers,
2 supplementing P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), and amending
3 P.L.1991, c.521.

4

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

7

8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that as
9 computers have become more popular, many innovative programs have
10 been developed throughout the nation to recover those being
11 discarded; that the recycling of used computers represents one
12 electronic by-product that may create new opportunities in the
13 evolving re-manufacturing industry, in which private firms recapture
14 household appliances and old electronic equipment; that during the
15 course of the past ten years, personal computer sales have increased
16 enormously, and surveys reveal that up to 25 percent of American
17 households now own at least one personal computer; and that with the
18 proliferation of personal computers and the continuously emerging
19 computer technologies, computer recycling has evolved, and with it
20 programs of reuse and recycling of such component parts as metal and
21 plastic.

22 The Legislature further finds and declares that approximately every
23 year two computers will be discarded for every three manufactured in
24 this country, thereby contributing approximately 200,000 tons of old
25 electronic equipment to the nation's solid waste stream; that while
26 many used computers may end up in the trash, others may be taken
27 home by employees or donated to friends or schools; that there are
28 several dozen computer recycling programs throughout the United
29 States, with numerous others sprouting up to serve social service
30 community organizations; and that keyboards, circuit boards, monitors
31 and other computer components and accessories can become obsolete
32 just with the advent of new processing chips.

33 The Legislature further finds and declares that, to date, over
34 25 million personal computers had been discarded globally; that this
35 number is expected to increase to 150 million by the end of the
36 decade; that it has been estimated that between 50 and 70 million
37 computers alone have been disposed of between 1992 and 1996; that
38 at landfill disposal "tipping fees" of \$50.00 per ton, the discarded
39 computers would cost more than \$100 million, not including the
40 potential cleanup costs of any hazardous materials that the computers
41 may leach into the environment; and that the disposal of used
42 computers in an environmentally-sound manner as solid waste is
43 costly.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 The Legislature further finds and declares that computers contain
2 numerous heavy metals; that cathode ray tubes (CRTs), commonly
3 known as "monitors," have high levels of lead in the glass, as well as
4 mercury, cadmium, and phosphorous in the vacuum tubes; that CRTs
5 are also found in television sets; that the CRT comprises about
6 two-thirds of the weight of a typical computer workstation; that the
7 lead in a monitor is about eight percent by weight, and the glass more
8 than 18 pounds in a typical 17-inch monitor; and that both of these
9 items may be recycled.

10 The Legislature therefore determines that it is in the public interest
11 to limit and eventually reduce the volume of used computer monitors
12 entering New Jersey's solid waste stream; and that the State, through
13 the Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the
14 manufacturers, retailers and distributors of computers and other
15 electronic equipment, should seek to develop an environmentally-
16 sound strategy for the proper management, recycling and reuse of used
17 computers.

18

19 2. (New section) a. The department, pursuant to state and Federal
20 law, and in consultation with manufacturers, retailers and distributors
21 of computers and other electronic equipment, and environmental
22 groups, and with the cooperation of the Department of Education,
23 shall prepare educational materials relating to the reclamation,
24 recycling or reuse of used computer monitors and used consumer
25 electronics.

26 b. The materials shall promote the values of recycling used
27 computer monitors and other used consumer electronics, such as
28 television sets and other cathode ray tubes mercury lamps; provide
29 information on the environmentally-sound disposal of such items; and
30 encourage the reuse of all cathode ray tubes found in consumer
31 electronics.

32

33 3. (New section) The Department of Education shall distribute the
34 educational materials prepared by the department pursuant to section
35 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as this bill)
36 to each school district in the State. Local school boards are
37 encouraged to integrate these educational materials into the curricula
38 whenever possible, and to otherwise make them available to
39 elementary and secondary school children for extracurricular activities
40 and to their parents.

41

42 4. (New section) a. The department, pursuant to state and Federal
43 law, and in consultation with manufacturers, retailers and distributors
44 of computers and other electronic equipment, and environmental
45 groups, shall organize and coordinate a cooperative public-private
46 demonstration project to evaluate the practicability and feasibility of

1 requiring the statewide mandatory source separation and recycling of
2 used computers monitors, used consumer electronic equipment or used
3 television sets or other cathode ray tube-containing devices, found to
4 be of particular concern to the department, as a means of encouraging
5 the recycling rather than disposal of these items.

6 b. The department shall investigate the availability of, and apply
7 for, funds available from the federal government, or any private or
8 public source, to finance the costs of the demonstration project.

9 c. The department shall prepare and submit a report to the
10 Governor, to the Legislature, and to the Chairmen of the Senate
11 Environment Committee and the Assembly Environment and Solid
12 Waste Committee or their successor committees no later than two
13 years following the effective date of this act. The report shall describe
14 the progress of the demonstration project and shall include
15 recommendations for further administrative or legislative action.

16
17 5. (New section) The commissioner shall adopt, pursuant to the
18 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
19 seq.), rules and regulations necessary to implement this act.

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21 6. Section 16 of P.L.1991, c.521 (C.13:1E-99.74) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 16. Whenever a county prepares and adopts a district household
24 hazardous waste management plan, the commissioner may require the
25 plan to be adopted as an amendment to the district solid waste
26 management plan required pursuant to the "Solid Waste Management
27 Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.)[, and]. Any district
28 household hazardous waste management plan adopted by a county
29 shall be subject to approval by the department.

30 a. Each district household hazardous waste management plan,
31 subject to approval by the department, shall identify the county
32 strategy or strategies for the collection and disposal of household
33 hazardous waste, which shall, at a minimum:

34 (1) provide for the collection and disposal of used mercuric oxide
35 batteries, nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries and sealed lead
36 rechargeable batteries at least once every 90 days;

37 (2) be consistent with the provisions of the district recycling plan
38 required pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1987, c.102 (C.13:1E-99.13);

39 (3) designate, if necessary, one or more collection sites within the
40 county for household hazardous waste collection and disposal; and

41 (4) include such other information as may be prescribed in rules or
42 regulations of the department.

43 b. A district household hazardous waste management plan, subject
44 to approval by the department, may provide for the collection and
45 disposal of any used dry cell batteries, cathode ray tubes from used
46 computer monitors or television sets.

1 c. Household hazardous waste shall be collected, stored and
2 transported in accordance with all applicable standards for such wastes
3 adopted as rules or regulations by the department pursuant to
4 P.L.1970, c.39, or as prescribed under any other applicable federal or
5 State law.

6 d. The department may use a portion of the moneys available in the
7 State Recycling Fund pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of
8 section 5 of P.L.1981, c.278 (C.13:1E-96) for the purposes of
9 providing to counties technical assistance and training in proper used
10 dry cell battery management.
11 (cf: P.L.1991, c.521, s.16)

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13 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18 This bill would encourage the recycling, reuse or proper disposal of
19 used computers monitors and television sets.

20 The bill provides that the Department of Environmental Protection,
21 in consultation with manufacturers, retailers and distributors of
22 computers and other electronic equipment, and environmental groups,
23 and with the cooperation of the Department of Education, would
24 prepare educational materials relating to the reclamation, recycling or
25 reuse of used computer monitors and used consumer electronics.

26 The materials would promote the values of recycling used computer
27 monitors and other used consumer electronics, such as television sets
28 and other cathode ray tube mercury lamps; provide information on the
29 environmentally-sound disposal of such items; and encourage the reuse
30 of all cathode ray tubes found in consumer electronics.

31 The bill requires the Department of Education to distribute the
32 educational materials to each school district in the State. Local school
33 boards are encouraged to integrate these educational materials into the
34 curricula whenever possible, and to otherwise make them available to
35 elementary and secondary school children for extracurricular activities
36 and to their parents.

37 The bill also requires the DEP, in consultation with manufacturers,
38 retailers and distributors of computers and other electronic equipment,
39 and environmental groups, to organize and coordinate a cooperative
40 public-private demonstration project to evaluate the practicability and
41 feasibility of requiring the statewide mandatory source separation and
42 recycling of used computer monitors, used consumer electronic
43 equipment or used television sets or other cathode ray tube-containing
44 devices, found to be of particular concern to the DEP, as a means of
45 encouraging the recycling rather than disposal of these items.

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1 The DEP must prepare and submit a report to the Governor, to the
2 Legislature, and to the Chairmen of the Senate Environment and the
3 Assembly Solid and Hazardous Waste Committees no later than two
4 years following the bill's effective date. The report would describe the
5 progress of the demonstration project and must include
6 recommendations for further administrative or legislative action.