

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3690

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2009

**Sponsored by:**  
**Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA**  
**District 15 (Mercer)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Consolidates all “doughnut municipalities” and “doughnut-hole municipalities” within 10 years.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT consolidating various municipalities.

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

5

6 1. For the purposes of this act:

7 “Doughnut municipality” means a municipality that completely  
8 surrounds another municipality. A municipality shall be considered  
9 a doughnut municipality even though a portion of its boundary does  
10 not completely surround another municipality due to the presence of  
11 a body of water or the boundary of another state.

12 “Doughnut-hole municipality” means a municipality that is  
13 completely surrounded by one other municipality. A municipality  
14 shall be considered a doughnut-hole municipality if a portion of its  
15 boundary is contiguous with a body of water or the boundary of  
16 another state, as long as the remainder of its boundary is contiguous  
17 with only one other New Jersey municipality.

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19 2. All doughnut municipalities shall be consolidated with their  
20 corresponding doughnut-hole municipalities or, alternatively, enter  
21 into shared services agreements for every major municipal service  
22 and function, as determined by regulations promulgated by the  
23 Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the  
24 Department of Community Affairs, within 10 years following the  
25 effective date of this act.

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27 3. The Division of Local Government Services in the  
28 Department of Community Affairs shall provide such assistance as  
29 may be necessary to effectuate these municipal consolidations, and  
30 to establish local governments for each new municipality, in a  
31 manner that conforms, whenever possible, to the provisions of the  
32 “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act,” sections 1  
33 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through C.40A:65-35).

34

35 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill provides that all doughnut municipalities shall be  
41 consolidated with their corresponding doughnut-hole municipalities  
42 or, alternatively, enter into shared services agreements for every  
43 major municipal service and function, as determined by regulations  
44 promulgated by the Director of the Division of Local Government  
45 Services in the Department of Community Affairs, within 10 years  
46 following the effective date of the bill.

47

48 For the purposes of this bill, “doughnut municipality” means a  
municipality that completely surrounds another municipality. A

1 municipality shall be considered a doughnut municipality even  
2 though a portion of its boundary does not completely surround  
3 another municipality due to the presence of a body of water or the  
4 boundary of another state. “Doughnut-hole municipality” means a  
5 municipality that is completely surrounded by one other  
6 municipality. A municipality shall be considered a doughnut-hole  
7 municipality if a portion of its boundary is contiguous with a body  
8 of water or the boundary of another state, as long as the remainder  
9 of its boundary is contiguous with only one other New Jersey  
10 municipality.

11 The bill provides that the Division of Local Government  
12 Services in the Department of Community Affairs shall provide  
13 such assistance as may be necessary to effectuate these municipal  
14 consolidations, and to establish local governments for each new  
15 municipality, in a manner that conforms, whenever possible, to the  
16 provisions of the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation  
17 Act,” sections 1 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through  
18 C.40A:65-35).

19 These consolidations are intended to reduce local tax rates  
20 through economies of scale and administrative consolidation.

WITHDRAWN