

# SENATE, No. 253

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JEFF VAN DREW**

**District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Expands emergency operations plans to include care for domestic animals.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning emergency preparedness and amending  
2 P.L.1989, c.222.

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

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7 1. Section 18 of P.L. 1989, c.222 (App.A:9-43.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 18. The State Office of Emergency Management shall adopt, no  
10 later than 12 months following the effective date of this act, a State  
11 Emergency Operations Plan, including rules, regulations, and  
12 guidelines, that shall be reviewed and updated at least every two  
13 years. The plan shall include provisions, which shall be developed  
14 in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to support the  
15 needs of animals and individuals with an animal under their care,  
16 including a domesticated or service animal, in a major disaster or  
17 emergency. In addition, the State Office of Emergency  
18 Management shall take appropriate steps to educate the public  
19 regarding the resources available in the event of an emergency and  
20 the importance of emergency preparedness planning.  
21 (cf: P.L. 2006, c.92, s.1)

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23 2. Section 19 of P.L. 1989, c.222 (App.A:9-43.2) is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 19. Each county and municipality in the State shall prepare a  
26 written Emergency Operations Plan with all appropriate annexes  
27 necessary to implement the plan. The development of all plans  
28 shall be coordinated with the Emergency Operations Plans of the  
29 State, county and neighboring municipalities to ensure a regional  
30 coordinated response and the efficient use of resources. These  
31 plans shall include provisions, which shall be developed in  
32 consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to support the  
33 needs of animals and individuals with an animal under their care,  
34 including a domesticated or service animal, in a major disaster or  
35 emergency. Each Emergency Operations Plan shall be adopted no  
36 later than one year after the State Emergency Planning Guidelines  
37 have been adopted by the State Office of Emergency Management  
38 and shall be evaluated at such subsequent scheduled review of the  
39 State Emergency Operations Plan.  
40 (cf: P.L.2006, c.92, s.2)

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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.

STATEMENT

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This bill expands requirements for the emergency operations plan to include care for domestic animals. Currently, the State statute only requires the State and local emergency operation plans to address the needs of farm animals and service animals during an emergency.

As demonstrated by thousands of pets that were abandoned or displaced after Hurricane Katrina, the sheltering of domesticated animals in the aftermath of a natural disaster is an increasingly important issue. Additionally, it was shown that in many instances people were willing to risk their personal safety than choose to leave a pet behind to weather a disaster.

This bill in effect brings the State in compliance with the federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-308) which requires the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop emergency evacuation plans that take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey, there are approximately 74.8 million owned dogs in the United States and thirty-nine percent of U.S. households own at least one dog. There are approximately 88.3 million owned cats in the United States and 34 percent of U.S. households (or 38.4 million) own at least one cat.

This bill implements recommendation eight of the Assembly Coastal New Jersey Evacuation Task Force which was established by Assembly Resolution No. 146. The task force was created to examine and assess the coastal evacuation plans.