

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4004

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 5, 2006

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4004, with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 4004, as amended, directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to prepare and adopt appropriate revisions and updates to the current New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan no later than December 31, 2006. The DEP is already required by law to prepare and adopt revisions and updates to the Plan at least once every five years. The current plan was last updated in June, 1996.

The bill requires the DEP, in preparing its revisions and updates to the current plan, to consult with the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust, as appropriate, as well with public and private water purveyors. The two State agencies have the primary responsibility for the development and financing of needed public and private water supply projects.

The bill appropriates the sum of \$2.5 million to the DEP from the "Water Supply Fund" created pursuant to the "Water Supply Bond Act of 1981," P.L.1981, c.261, as amended by P.L.1983, c.355 and P.L.1997, c.223, to cover the costs of revising and updating the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan. Under the provisions of P.L.1997, c.223, moneys in the "Water Supply Fund" may be used by the DEP "for the purposes of covering the costs of the department for planning and feasibility studies for ground and surface water programs, water delivery and treatment programs, the analysis and implementation of water conservation practices, or the updating of the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan."

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate 466 (1R), as also amended and reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill appropriates \$2.5 million from the "Water Supply Fund" to cover costs revising and updating the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments make a technical change to the date by which the updating shall be completed from December 3, 2005 to December 31, 2006.