

SENATE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 466

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 24, 2004

The Senate Environment Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 466 with committee amendments.

As amended, Senate Bill No. 466 requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to prepare and adopt revisions and updates to the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan at least once every five years. The current Plan was last updated in June, 1996.

Specifically, the DEP must prepare and adopt appropriate revisions and updates to the current New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan within 180 days of the effective date of this bill.

In its preparation of proposed revisions and updates to the current plan, the DEP must 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. These two State agencies have the primary responsibility for the development and financing of needed public and private water supply projects.

The bill would appropriate the sum of \$1.5 million to the department 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."

Committee Amendments:

The committee amendments would:

(1) extend the date by which the DEP must complete and adopt appropriate revisions and updates to the current New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan to December 31, 2005; and

(2) increase the appropriation from the "Water Supply Fund" to cover the costs incurred by the DEP in revising and updating the Plan to \$2.5 million.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2004-2005 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.