

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1776

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 2010

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1776 with committee amendments.

This bill would authorize a county governing body to develop community based deer management plans and apply for special deer management permits for county-owned lands when the county governing body determines that the deer population has caused significant damage to property, not including damage to agricultural property, in the county or has caused a significant number of vehicle collisions therein.

The bill would amend P.L.2000, c.46 (C.23:4-42.3 et seq.), which established procedures to be followed for a county board of agriculture, municipal governing body, or owner or operator of an airport to receive approval from the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife for a community based deer management plan. Under the current law, two or more municipalities may submit one plan for a special deer management area that covers more than one municipality; however, a county governing body may not submit a plan.

This bill would amend the law to allow a county governing body to apply directly for approval of a community based deer management plan and a special deer management permit for county-owned lands when the county governing body determines that the deer population has caused significant damage to property, not including damage to agricultural property, in the county or has caused a significant number of vehicle collisions therein. The bill also provides that a county governing body would not need to obtain a resolution, adopted by the governing body of the municipality in which the county-owned lands are located, as part of its application to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The committee amendments make technical corrections to the bill.