

SENATE, No. 2949

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires expenses incurred by Governor during out-of-State travel for political activities not be paid with or out of public funds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/24/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning the payment of certain expenses incurred by the
2 Governor during out-of-State travel and supplementing chapter
3 15 of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. (1) All expenses incurred for travel, food, lodging,
9 security, or any other purposes, incurred by the Governor when
10 traveling out of State and engaging in political activities and not
11 activities directly related to the Governor's regular and official
12 duties as Governor, shall not be paid with or out of public funds.

13 (2) Within 10 business days after the Governor travels out of
14 State and engages in political activities, the Governor shall file with
15 the State Ethics Commission, created pursuant to section 10 of
16 P.L.1971, c.182 (C.52:13D-21), a notice that describes the date,
17 destination, and purpose of the trip.

18 b. (1) Whenever a question arises as to whether a particular
19 expense is one that the Governor incurred when traveling out of
20 State and engaging in political activities and not activities directly
21 related to the Governor's regular and official duties as Governor,
22 the commission shall resolve the question based on information
23 gathered by the commission and provided by the Governor. The
24 commission may accept questions from the Governor, a State
25 officer or employee, or a member of the public.

26 (2) Any expense for an activity determined by the commission
27 to be a political activity shall not be eligible for payment or
28 reimbursement from public funds made available to the Governor.

29 (3) An individual or an organization may file a complaint with
30 the commission that an activity in which the Governor has engaged
31 is a political activity and not an activity directly related to the
32 Governor's regular and official duties as Governor and is, therefore,
33 ineligible for payment or reimbursement from public funds. The
34 commission shall conduct an investigation of the complaint in
35 accordance with the existing applicable procedures of the
36 commission for examining and resolving complaints.

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38 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following the date
39 of enactment.

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42 STATEMENT

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44 This bill provides that all expenses incurred for travel, food,
45 lodging, security, or any other purposes, incurred by the Governor
46 when traveling out of State and engaging in political activities and
47 not activities directly related to the Governor's regular and official
48 duties as Governor, would not be paid with or out of public funds.

1 Within 10 business days after the Governor travels out of State
2 and engages in political activities, the Governor is to file with the
3 State Ethics Commission a notice that describes the date,
4 destination, and purpose of the trip.

5 Whenever a question arises as to whether a particular expense is
6 one that the Governor incurred when traveling out of State and
7 engaging in political activities and not activities directly related to
8 the Governor's regular and official duties as Governor, the
9 commission is to resolve the question based on information
10 gathered by the commission and provided by the Governor. The
11 commission may accept questions from the Governor, a State
12 officer or employee, or a member of the public.

13 The bill further provides that any expense for an activity
14 determined by the commission to be a political activity would not
15 be eligible for payment or reimbursement from public funds made
16 available to the Governor.

17 The bill also provides that an individual or an organization may
18 file a complaint with the commission that an activity in which the
19 Governor has engaged is a political activity and not an activity
20 directly related to the Governor's regular and official duties as
21 Governor and is, therefore, ineligible for payment or reimbursement
22 from public funds. The commission is to conduct an investigation
23 of the complaint in accordance with the existing applicable
24 procedures of the commission for examining and resolving
25 complaints.