

SENATE, No. 3027

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2017

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes State food waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing
2 Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that food waste is a major
8 issue in the United States and globally; that, according to the Food
9 and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
10 unwanted and discarded food squanders resources, including water,
11 land, energy, labor, and capital, and, when food waste is dumped in
12 a landfill, it rots and creates methane, which is a powerful
13 greenhouse gas; that the FAO has estimated that one third of the
14 food produced in the world for human consumption – about 1.3
15 billion tons – is lost or wasted every year, and the food loss and
16 waste in industrialized countries equates to a value of
17 approximately \$680 billion; that the FAO has also stated that if one
18 fourth of the food lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would
19 be enough to feed 870 million hungry people; that the Harvard Food
20 Law and Policy Clinic has estimated that 40 percent of the food
21 supply in the United States is not eaten; that, according to the
22 United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United
23 States Department of Agriculture, food loss and waste is the single
24 largest component of disposed municipal solid waste in the United
25 States; in 2015, that the Administrator of the United States
26 Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the United
27 States Department of Agriculture announced a national goal of
28 reducing food waste by 50 percent by the year 2030; that much
29 more can and must be done in the food supply chain to reduce the
30 incredible waste of such a precious resource; that New Jersey is a
31 national leader in implementing effective recycling and solid waste
32 reduction programs, and thus it is appropriate for the State to also
33 be among the national leaders in developing and implementing a
34 Statewide food waste reduction program; and that, therefore, it is
35 appropriate and fitting, as well as a moral imperative, that the State
36 seek to reduce food waste as much as possible in New Jersey, and
37 that reducing food waste in the State by 50 percent by the year 2030
38 is a worthy goal to pursue with vigor and all due speed.

39

40 2. a. There is established for the State a goal of reducing, by
41 the year 2030, the amount of food waste generated annually in the
42 State by 50 percent of that amount which is generated in the year
43 this act takes effect.

44 b. (1) Within one year after the effective date of this act, the
45 Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the
46 Department of Agriculture, shall develop and commence
47 implementation of a plan to accomplish the State food waste
48 reduction goal established by subsection a. of this section. The

1 Department of Environmental Protection shall hold at least three
2 public hearings during the development of the plan to seek public
3 input thereon. The departments may also consult and coordinate
4 with other governmental entities and private, nonprofit, or
5 charitable associations, organizations, or businesses, such as those
6 in the agricultural, grocery, restaurant, food manufacturer, food
7 supply, food bank, food pantry, and healthcare sectors of the food
8 industry, in developing and implementing the plan.

9 (2) As part of the plan, the Department of Environmental
10 Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, shall
11 make such recommendations for any administrative or legislative
12 action deemed necessary to further progress toward achieving the
13 State food waste reduction goal, which shall be transmitted to the
14 Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of
15 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) and to the chairpersons of the
16 Senate Environment and Energy Committee, the Senate Economic
17 Growth Committee, the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste
18 Committee, and the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources
19 Committee, or their respective successors.

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21 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill would establish for the State a goal of reducing, by the
27 year 2030, the amount of food waste generated annually in the State
28 by 50 percent of that amount which is generated in the year this bill
29 takes effect.

30 The bill would require the Department of Environmental
31 Protection (DEP), in consultation with the Department of
32 Agriculture (DOA) and within one year, to develop and commence
33 implementation of a plan to accomplish the 50 percent State food
34 waste reduction goal. The DEP would be required to hold at least
35 three public hearings during the development of the plan to seek
36 public input thereon. The departments also would be authorized to
37 consult and coordinate with other governmental entities and private,
38 nonprofit, or charitable associations, organizations, or businesses,
39 such as those in the agricultural, grocery, restaurant, food
40 manufacturer, food supply, food bank, food pantry, and healthcare
41 sectors of the food industry, in developing and implementing the
42 plan.

43 As part of the plan, the DEP, in consultation with the DOA,
44 would be required to make such recommendations for any
45 administrative or legislative action deemed necessary to further
46 progress toward achieving the State food waste reduction goal.

47 Food waste is a major issue in the United States and globally.
48 According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

1 Nations (FAO), unwanted and discarded food squanders resources,
2 including water, land, energy, labor, and capital. In addition, when
3 food waste is dumped in a landfill, it rots and creates methane,
4 which is a powerful greenhouse gas. The FAO has estimated that
5 one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption
6 – about 1.3 billion tons – is lost or wasted every year, and the food
7 loss and waste in industrialized countries equates to a value of
8 approximately \$680 billion. The FAO has also stated that if one
9 fourth of the food lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would
10 be enough to feed 870 million hungry people. In addition, the
11 Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic has estimated that 40 percent
12 of the food supply in the United States is not eaten. Also, the
13 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the
14 United States Department of Agriculture have stated that food loss
15 and waste is the single largest component of disposed municipal
16 solid waste in the United States.

17 In 2015, the Administrator of EPA and the Secretary of the
18 United States Department of Agriculture announced a national goal
19 of reducing food waste by 50 percent by the year 2030. This bill
20 would set that same goal for the State of New Jersey and thereby
21 start the State on the road of doing its proper part in halting this
22 worldwide waste of precious natural resources and in helping to
23 ensure that all people everywhere can have enough food to eat.