

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2417**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Chiaravalloti**

**SYNOPSIS**

Creates “Coastal Climate Change Commission.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2019)**

1 AN ACT creating the “Coastal Climate Change Commission.”

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is created in, but not of, the Department of  
7 Environmental Protection the “Coastal Climate Change  
8 Commission.” The commission shall be comprised of 15 members  
9 as follows:

10 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the  
11 Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their designees, who shall  
12 serve ex officio;

13 (2) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the  
14 Senate, who shall not be both of the same political party;

15 (3) two members of the General Assembly appointed by the  
16 Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall not be both of the  
17 same political party; and

18 (4) nine members, appointed by the Governor, of whom (a) one  
19 shall be a representative of the New Jersey State League of  
20 Municipalities; (b) one shall be a representative of the New Jersey  
21 Chamber of Commerce; (c) one shall be a representative of the New  
22 Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers; (d) one shall be a  
23 representative of a public utility in the State with expertise,  
24 knowledge, or experience in disaster preparedness or response; (e)  
25 one shall be a representative of an environmental or land use  
26 organization with expertise, knowledge, or experience in  
27 environmental issues driven by climate change and the ecological  
28 impacts of storm surge, flooding, and other weather-generated  
29 threats to the State’s ecosystems; (f) one shall be a representative of  
30 Rutgers, the State University, and one shall be a representative of  
31 Stevens Institute of Technology, each of whom are familiar with  
32 climate change issues and their potential impacts on the State; (g)  
33 one shall be a representative of a financial service corporation  
34 involved in bond credit rating and providing investment advice and  
35 analysis to municipalities, and (h) one shall be a member of the  
36 public with relevant expertise in disaster preparedness or response,  
37 engineering, flood mitigation, public planning, environmental  
38 protection, or related issues.

39 b. The members set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection a. of  
40 this section shall be appointed by the Governor within 30 days after  
41 the date of enactment of this act. Any vacancy in the membership  
42 of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
43 appointment.

44 c. The commission shall:

45 (1) study climate change issues and the challenges they present  
46 to municipalities;

1 (2) develop recommendations for Statewide climate change  
2 related policies and ways to assist municipalities to address these  
3 issues and challenges; and

4 (3) report these recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant  
5 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no  
6 later than 18 months after the commission's first meeting.

7 d. The commission shall solicit input from:

8 (1) the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the National  
9 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States  
10 Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Coast Guard,  
11 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and any other federal,  
12 State, or local agencies involved in disaster preparedness, flood and  
13 emergency response, or municipal construction and development;  
14 and

15 (2) mayors, council members, and administrators of  
16 municipalities impacted by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, or  
17 other significant storm and flooding events, and individual citizens  
18 in those municipalities.

19 The commission may also consult with experts in the public or  
20 private sector on any aspect of its mission in conducting the  
21 business of the commission.

22 e. The commission shall organize as soon as may be  
23 practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members, and  
24 shall select a chairperson from among its members and a secretary  
25 who need not be a member of the commission.

26 f. The commission shall meet regularly as it may determine,  
27 and shall also meet at the call of the chairperson of the commission  
28 or a majority of the membership.

29 g. A majority of the membership of the commission shall  
30 constitute a quorum for the transaction of commission business.  
31 Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the  
32 commission at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of a  
33 majority of the membership of the commission in attendance at the  
34 meeting.

35 h. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
36 avail itself of the services of such employees of any State, county,  
37 or municipal department, authority, board, bureau, commission,  
38 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for the  
39 purpose of carrying out its duties under this act.

40 i. If requested by the commission, the Department of  
41 Environmental Protection shall provide primary staff support to the  
42 commission.

43  
44 2. The commission shall expire on the 180<sup>th</sup> day after the date  
45 it submits its report to the Governor and Legislature.

46  
47 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

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3 This bill creates a 15-member commission in, but not of, the  
4 Department of Environmental Protection, entitled the “Coastal  
5 Climate Change Commission.” The membership of the commission  
6 would be appointed as set forth in subsection a. of section 1 of this  
7 bill. The commission is directed to:

8 1) study climate change issues and the challenges they present  
9 to municipalities in the State;

10 2) develop recommendations for Statewide policies and ways to  
11 assist municipalities in the State to address these issues and  
12 challenges; and

13 3) report these recommendations to the Governor and to the  
14 Legislature no later than 18 months after the commission’s first  
15 meeting.