

ASSEMBLY, No. 5111

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

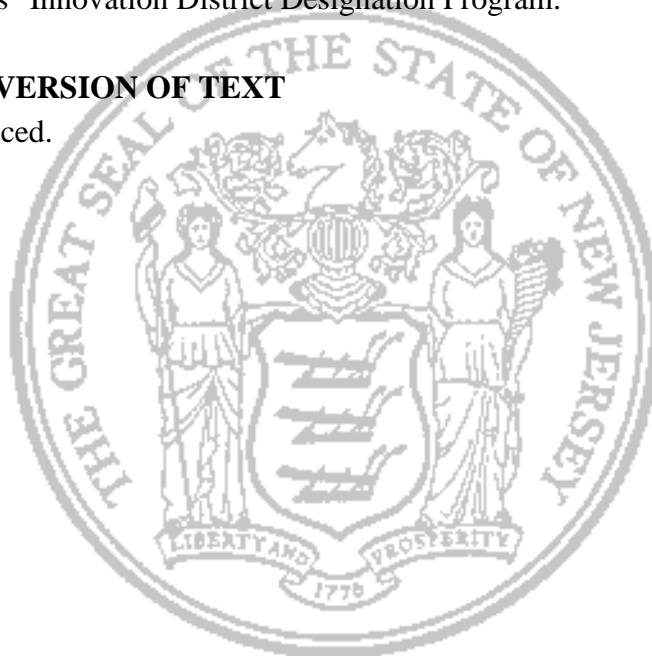
Assemblyman Calabrese

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Innovation District Designation Program."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2019)

A5111 KENNEDY, JONES

2

1 AN ACT establishing the "Innovation District Designation Program"
2 and supplementing P.L.1985, c.102 (C.52:9X-1 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. a. The "Innovation District Designation Program" is
8 established within the New Jersey Commission on Science,
9 Innovation and Technology. The purpose of the program is to
10 encourage the development of innovation districts within New
11 Jersey. The purpose of an innovation district is to promote the
12 development or redevelopment of an area in a manner that
13 facilitates collaboration between government, higher education
14 institutions, and private enterprise.

15 b. The commission, in consultation with the Department of
16 Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Community
17 Affairs, and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority,
18 shall establish criteria for the designation of innovation districts.
19 Criteria for innovation district designation shall include:

20 (1) the presence of a higher education institution;

21 (2) accessibility to mass transportation facilities and services;
22 and

23 (3) zoning or a redevelopment plan that permits mixed-use
24 development.

25 c. The commission shall establish an application form and
26 procedure for municipalities to apply for designation of an area as
27 an innovation district. An application shall:

28 (1) identify the boundaries of the proposed innovation district;

29 (2) identify one or more higher education institutions located, or
30 committed to relocate, in whole or in part, within the proposed
31 innovation district;

32 (3) identify existing and proposed mass transportation facilities
33 and services located within or nearby the proposed innovation
34 district;

35 (4) include an inventory of existing and proposed businesses,
36 recreational facilities, public parks, and gathering spaces located
37 within the proposed innovation district;

38 (5) include information concerning the walkability of the
39 proposed innovation district;

40 (6) include a plan for the development or redevelopment of the
41 proposed innovation district, which may include, but shall not be
42 limited to, plans for:

43 (a) attracting businesses to locate within the district;

44 (b) the development of business incubation facilities or public
45 meeting spaces;

46 (c) programming, events, and community building;

47 (d) marketing and outreach;

48 (e) improvements to public spaces;

- 1 (f) the development or redevelopment of housing; and
2 (g) the improvement of technology infrastructure, including, but
3 not limited to, broadband improvements; and
4 (7) include any other information required by the commission.
5 d. The commission and the Department of Community Affairs
6 shall publicize the Innovation District Designation Program, and
7 provide links to the application form and procedure, on the Internet
8 websites of the commission and the department.
9 e. A municipality may apply to the commission for designation
10 of all or part of the municipality as an innovation district. Two or
11 more municipalities may jointly apply for designation of an area as
12 an innovation district. An application shall not be submitted unless
13 authorized by adoption of a resolution of the governing body of the
14 municipality, or, in the event of a joint application, the adoption of
15 parallel resolutions by the governing bodies of the municipalities.
16 f. Within 60 calendar days of its receipt of a complete
17 application for designation of an area as an innovation district, the
18 commission shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny the
19 application.
20 g. In consultation with the Department of Community Affairs
21 and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the
22 commission shall adopt guidance and standards for municipalities to
23 promote innovation districts as places for businesses to locate. A
24 municipality may advertise or otherwise use innovation district
25 designation in accordance with the adopted guidance or standards.

26
27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
28
29

30 STATEMENT
31

32 This bill would establish the "Innovation District Designation
33 Program" within the New Jersey Commission on Science,
34 Innovation and Technology. Under the bill, one or more
35 municipalities may apply to the commission for designation of an
36 area as an Innovation District. The purpose of an innovation district
37 is to promote the development or redevelopment of an area in a
38 manner that facilitates collaboration between government, higher
39 education institutions, and private enterprise.

40 The commission, in consultation with the Department of Labor
41 and Workforce Development, the Department of Community
42 Affairs, and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority,
43 would identify criteria for designation of innovation districts. The
44 bill specifies the following criteria for innovation district
45 designation:

- 46 • the presence of a higher education institution;
47 • accessibility to mass transportation facilities and services;
48 and

A5111 KENNEDY, JONES

- 1 • zoning or a redevelopment plan that permits mixed-use
2 development.

3 The bill directs the commission to establish an application form
4 and procedure for designation of an Innovation District. The bill
5 would require an application for Innovation District designation to:

- 6 (1) identify the boundaries of the proposed innovation district;
7 (2) identify one or more higher education institutions located, or
8 committed to relocate, in whole or in part, within the proposed
9 innovation district;

10 (3) identify existing and proposed mass transportation facilities
11 and services located within or nearby the proposed innovation
12 district;

13 (4) include an inventory of existing and proposed businesses,
14 recreational facilities, public parks, and gathering spaces located
15 within the proposed innovation district;

16 (5) include information concerning the walkability of the
17 proposed innovation district; and

18 (6) include a plan for the development or redevelopment of the
19 proposed innovation district.

20 The bill requires the commission and the Department of
21 Community Affairs to publicize the Innovation District Designation
22 Program, and provide links to the application form and procedure,
23 on their websites.

24 Under the bill, a municipality may apply to the commission for
25 designation of all or part of the municipality as an innovation
26 district. Two or more municipalities may jointly apply for
27 designation of an area as an innovation district. Within 60 calendar
28 days of its receipt of a complete application for designation of an
29 area as an innovation district, the bill directs the commission to
30 approve, conditionally approve, or deny the application.

31 The bill directs the commission, in consultation with the
32 Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Economic
33 Development Authority, to adopt guidance and standards for
34 municipalities to promote Innovation Districts as places for
35 businesses to locate. A municipality may advertise or otherwise use
36 innovation district designation in accordance with the guidance and
37 standards.