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

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

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

b. The commission, in consultation with the Department of
Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Community
Affairs, and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority,
shall establish criteria for the designation of innovation districts.
Criteria for innovation district designation shall include:
(1) the presence of a higher education institution;
(2) accessibility to mass transportation facilities and services;
and
(3) zoning or a redevelopment plan that permits mixed-use
development.

c. The commission shall establish an application form and
procedure for municipalities to apply for designation of an area as
an innovation district. An application shall:
(1) identify the boundaries of the proposed innovation district;
(2) identify one or more higher education institutions located, or
committed to relocate, in whole or in part, within the proposed
innovation district;
(3) identify existing and proposed mass transportation facilities
and services located within or nearby the proposed innovation
district;
(4) include an inventory of existing and proposed businesses,
recreational facilities, public parks, and gathering spaces located
within the proposed innovation district;
(5) include information concerning the walkability of the
proposed innovation district;
(6) include a plan for the development or redevelopment of the
proposed innovation district, which may include, but shall not be
limited to, plans for:
(a) attracting businesses to locate within the district;
(b) the development of business incubation facilities or public
meeting spaces;
(c) programming, events, and community building;
(d) marketing and outreach;
(e) improvements to public spaces;
(f) the development or redevelopment of housing; and
(g) the improvement of technology infrastructure, including, but
not limited to, broadband improvements; and
(7) include any other information required by the commission.

D. The commission and the Department of Community Affairs
shall publicize the Innovation District Designation Program, and
provide links to the application form and procedure, on the Internet
websites of the commission and the department.

E. A municipality may apply to the commission for designation
of all or part of the municipality as an innovation district. Two or
more municipalities may jointly apply for designation of an area as
an innovation district. An application shall not be submitted unless
authorized by adoption of a resolution of the governing body of the
municipality, or, in the event of a joint application, the adoption of
parallel resolutions by the governing bodies of the municipalities.

F. Within 60 calendar days of its receipt of a complete
application for designation of an area as an innovation district, the
commission shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny the
application.

G. In consultation with the Department of Community Affairs
and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the
commission shall adopt guidance and standards for municipalities to
promote innovation districts as places for businesses to locate. A
municipality may advertise or otherwise use innovation district
designation in accordance with the adopted guidance or standards.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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

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

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

and
zoning or a redevelopment plan that permits mixed-use development.

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

1. identify the boundaries of the proposed innovation district;
2. identify one or more higher education institutions located, or committed to relocate, in whole or in part, within the proposed innovation district;
3. identify existing and proposed mass transportation facilities and services located within or nearby the proposed innovation district;
4. include an inventory of existing and proposed businesses, recreational facilities, public parks, and gathering spaces located within the proposed innovation district;
5. include information concerning the walkability of the proposed innovation district; and
6. include a plan for the development or redevelopment of the proposed innovation district.

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

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

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