

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1579

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

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**District 11 (Monmouth)**

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**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DEP to develop beach accessibility guidelines for persons with disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning guidelines for beach accessibility for persons  
2 with disabilities, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. Within one year after the effective date of this act, the  
9 Department of Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the  
10 Department of Human Services, develop guidelines for specific  
11 facilities and accommodations necessary to provide accessibility to  
12 beaches for persons with disabilities. The guidelines shall include  
13 recommendations for ramps, restrooms, showers, boardwalks, surf  
14 chairs, parking, and any other facilities deemed appropriate.

15 b. When developing the guidelines pursuant to subsection a. of  
16 this section, the Department of Environmental Protection shall:

17 (1) consult with persons and organizations that have knowledge  
18 and experience in assisting individuals with intellectual or  
19 developmental disabilities. The Department of Human Services shall  
20 establish a process by which such persons and organizations will be  
21 informed of their ability to provide input and recommendations in  
22 association with the development of beach accessibility guidelines  
23 under this section; and

24 (2) consider, as appropriate, the guidelines for beach access routes  
25 and facilities on federal lands, which have been adopted by the United  
26 States Access Board.

27 c. Upon adoption of the guidelines pursuant to subsection a. of  
28 this section, the Department of Environmental Protection shall publish  
29 the guidelines on its Internet website, and distribute the guidelines to  
30 every county and municipality with publicly-owned beach or  
31 waterfront property.

32 d. The Department of Environmental Protection shall design a  
33 uniform promotional label or sign that may be displayed by a county  
34 or local government at any beach that complies with the guidelines  
35 adopted pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

36  
37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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40 STATEMENT  
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42 This bill would require the Department of Environmental  
43 Protection (DEP), in consultation with the Department of Human  
44 Services (DHS), to develop guidelines for specific facilities and  
45 accommodations necessary to provide accessibility to beaches for  
46 persons with disabilities. The guidelines would be required to  
47 include recommendations for ramps, restrooms, showers,  
48 boardwalks, surf chairs, parking, and any other facilities deemed

1 appropriate. The bill requires the DEP, when developing the  
2 guidelines, to consult with any persons or organizations with  
3 knowledge and experience in assisting individuals with intellectual  
4 or developmental disabilities. The bill requires the DHS to  
5 establish a process by which such persons and organizations will be  
6 informed of their ability to provide input and recommendations in  
7 association with the development of beach accessibility guidelines.  
8 The DEP is also required to consider, as appropriate, the guidelines  
9 for beach access routes and facilities on federal lands adopted by  
10 the United States Access Board. The bill requires the DEP to  
11 publish the guidelines on its Internet website and to distribute the  
12 guidelines to every county and municipality with publicly-owned  
13 beach or waterfront property.

14 This bill also requires the DEP to design a uniform label or sign  
15 that may be displayed by a county or local government at any beach  
16 that complies with the accessibility guidelines developed under the  
17 bill.