

ASSEMBLY, No. 3852

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator CHRIS A. BROWN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Dunn and Assemblyman DePhillips

SYNOPSIS

Allows conduct of State business and legislative sessions at locations other than Trenton during periods of emergency or other exigency; allows conduct of legislative business using electronic means.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2020)

A3852 COUGHLIN, BRAMNICK

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1 AN ACT concerning the conduct of certain State government
2 business and legislative sessions during periods of emergency or
3 other exigency, and amending R.S.52:1-1 and P.L.1963, c.118.

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

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8 1. R.S.52:1-1 is amended to read as follows:

9 52:1-1. a. Trenton, in the county of Mercer, shall be the seat of
10 the government of this State.

11 b. All sessions of the Legislature shall be held at Trenton or, on
12 a temporary basis, for ceremonial or commemorative purposes or,
13 notwithstanding section 1 of P.L.1963, c.118 (C.52:1-1.1), by
14 reason of emergency or other exigency, at such other **[place]**
15 locations in the State as shall be designated by the Legislature by
16 concurrent resolution.

17 c. During a period of emergency or exigency, as determined by
18 the Governor pursuant to the laws of this State or by the Legislature
19 pursuant to concurrent resolution, the Legislature may use any
20 technology or electronic means

21 to conduct its business or otherwise carry out its purposes, or
22 to comply with the requirements of paragraph 6 of Section IV of
23 Article IV or, for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of
24 governmental operations, of paragraph 4 of Section VI of Article
25 IV of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

26 (cf: P.L.1979, c.209, s.1)

27
28 2. Section 1 of P.L.1963, c.118 (C.52:1-1.1) is amended to read
29 as follows:

30 1. Whenever, due to an emergency **[resulting from the effects**
31 **of enemy attack,]** or the anticipated effects of **[threatened enemy**
32 **attack]** such emergency, it becomes imprudent, inexpedient or
33 impossible to conduct the affairs of State Government at the normal
34 location of the seat thereof in the city of Trenton in the county of
35 Mercer, the Governor shall, as often as the exigencies of the
36 situation require, by proclamation, declare an emergency temporary
37 location, or locations, for the seat of Government at such place, or
38 places, within or without this State as he may deem advisable under
39 the circumstances, and shall take such action and issue such orders
40 as may be necessary for an orderly transition of the affairs of State
41 Government to such emergency temporary location, or locations.
42 Such emergency temporary location, or locations, shall remain as
43 the seat of Government until the Legislature shall by law establish a
44 new location, or locations, or until the emergency is declared to be

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 ended by the Governor and the seat of Government is returned to
2 its normal location.

3 (cf: P.L.1963, c.118, s.1)

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5 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill allows the conduct of State business and legislative
11 sessions at locations other than Trenton during periods of
12 emergency or other exigency.

13 The bill also allows the Legislature to use any technology or
14 electronic means to conduct its business, to carry out its purposes,
15 or to comply with the requirements of certain provisions of the New
16 Jersey Constitution during a period of emergency that is determined
17 to exist by the Governor or the Legislature.