

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4792

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Stanfield, Assemblymen McClellan and Simonsen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Appropriates \$30 million to EDA from federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund” to assist certain live entertainment venues.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/12/2020)**

1 AN ACT allocating federal funding to assist certain live  
2 entertainment venues and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the New  
8 Jersey Economic Development Authority the sum of \$30 million  
9 from a portion of those federal block grant funds allocated to the  
10 State from the federal “Coronavirus Relief Fund,” established  
11 pursuant to the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic  
12 Security Act,” Pub.L.116-136, for use by the authority to provide  
13 financial support, by way of grants, to live entertainment venues for  
14 the costs associated with business operation interruptions caused by  
15 by the coronavirus 2019 disease.

16 b. This act shall not apply to a commercial establishment which  
17 regularly features live performances characterized by the exposure  
18 of a “specified anatomical area” or by a “specified sexual activity”  
19 as defined in section 2 of P.L.1995, c.230 (C.2C:34-6).

20 c. The authority shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to  
21 the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1  
22 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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27 STATEMENT

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29 This bill appropriates \$30 million to the New Jersey Economic  
30 Development Authority from a portion of those federal block grant  
31 funds allocated to the State from the federal “Coronavirus Relief  
32 Fund,” established pursuant to the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief,  
33 and Economic Security (CARES) Act,” Pub.L.116-136, for use by  
34 the EDA to provide financial support, by way of loans or grants, to  
35 food establishments for costs associated with business operation  
36 interruptions caused by Executive Order No. 158.

37 Over the past four months, the State has been confronting the  
38 viral disease known as coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19),  
39 which has necessitated certain emergency measures to curtail its  
40 spread. As part of these measures, on March 21, 2020, the  
41 Governor signed Executive Order No. 107, which directed all  
42 residents to stay at home until further notice and closed all non-  
43 essential businesses to the public. This order affected thousands of  
44 businesses and especially food establishments, some of whom  
45 shuttered their doors permanently. In the months following this  
46 order, subsequent orders have been signed lifting these restrictions  
47 as cases of COVID-19 have fallen, and since June 15, 2020, food

1 establishments have been able to offer outdoor dining service,  
2 which has helped recoup some of their losses.

3 In light of this progress, on June 26, 2020, the Governor, as part  
4 of his administration's reopening plan, signed Executive Order No.  
5 157, which allowed food establishments to offer indoor dining  
6 service, with limitations. This order, originally scheduled to go into  
7 effect on July 2, was a source of added relief for food  
8 establishments who were struggling financially, even after the  
9 reopening of outdoor dining. Yet, with hospitalizations for  
10 COVID-19 having fallen 90 percent since April, and with the State  
11 on track to contain the disease, the Governor reversed his decision  
12 to reopen indoor dining, citing a rise in COVID-19 cases in other  
13 states. This decision, formalized under Executive Order No. 158,  
14 severely affected food establishments who hired additional staff and  
15 equipment in anticipation of reopening, and may lead some  
16 establishments to close permanently.

17 Under this bill, \$30 million will be allocated to the EDA from  
18 the "Coronavirus Relief Fund" in order to financially support food  
19 establishments impacted by Executive Order No. 158. By providing  
20 this support, an important part of our State's economy and culture  
21 will be protected.