

ASSEMBLY, No. 5396

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOT to consult Department of Agriculture and County Agriculture Development Boards when developing transportation capital project list.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the inclusion of agricultural concerns in the
2 annual transportation capital project list and supplementing Title
3 27 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. The Department of Transportation shall annually consult,
9 in a manner to be determined by the Commissioner of
10 Transportation, with the Department of Agriculture and County
11 Agriculture Development Boards, established pursuant to section 7
12 of P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-14) concerning the transportation
13 infrastructure needs of the State's agricultural community when
14 developing the Annual Transportation Capital Program, required
15 pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22).

16 b. The Department of Transportation shall develop a
17 methodology to account for the identified transportation
18 infrastructure needs of the agricultural community and incorporate
19 those needs into the Department of Transportation's infrastructure
20 management systems that are used to evaluate transportation
21 infrastructure needs, when identifying potential transportation
22 infrastructure projects for inclusion in the Annual Transportation
23 Capital Program.

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25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to
31 consult with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and County
32 Agriculture Development Boards (county boards) when developing
33 the Annual Transportation Capital Program. The bill requires the
34 DOT to develop a methodology to account for the transportation
35 infrastructure needs identified by the DOA and county boards, and
36 to incorporate those needs into DOT management systems, the
37 analytic tools used to evaluate the condition of transportation
38 infrastructure, when identifying infrastructure projects for inclusion
39 in the Annual Transportation Capital Program.

40 The State has made significant investments into farmland
41 preservation efforts. Additional investments must be made into the
42 transportation infrastructure surrounding such farmland to preserve
43 the productivity and viability of New Jersey farms. Investments in
44 transportation infrastructure that benefits agriculture will help
45 maintain farming as a viable industry in the State and provide net
46 benefits to the economy as a whole.