

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3049

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Establishes regional municipal court pilot program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 3, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning municipal courts, and supplementing Title 2B
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. ¹a.¹ The Administrative Office of the Courts shall establish
8 a regional municipal court pilot program in no fewer than ²**[three]**
9 two qualified² counties and no fewer than five municipalities in
10 each county. The Administrative Director of the Courts in
11 consultation with the assignment judges shall select appropriate
12 counties and municipalities for the implementation of the program.

13 ¹b. Any ²qualified² county that has considered municipal court
14 consolidation on a county-wide basis prior to the enactment of
15 P.L. c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) may
16 submit that information to the Administrative Director of the Courts
17 and that county shall be included in the pilot program.

18 c. ²To qualify for selection under this section, a county shall
19 have a population of less than 300,000 and a population density of
20 less than 500 people per square mile according to the 2010
21 decennial census. If one county in a multi-county vicinage qualifies,
22 all the counties in the vicinage qualify.² The population and
23 population density figures set forth in subsection e. of N.J.S. 2B:12-
24 1 shall not apply to any regional municipal court in any county
25 participating in this pilot program, including any county included
26 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.¹

27
28 2. A regional municipal court shall have jurisdiction over all
29 matters falling within the jurisdiction of the municipal courts in the
30 pilot program. All complaints issued in the county by the State
31 Police or any statewide law enforcement agency, or by any county
32 law enforcement agency, any county code enforcement entity, or by
33 any other non-municipal law enforcement agency, shall also fall
34 within the jurisdiction of the regional municipal court, consistent
35 with the provisions of N.J.S.2B:12-17 and N.J.S.2B:12-18.

36
37 3. ¹a.¹ Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fines
38 and costs collected by the regional municipal court shall be retained
39 by the regional municipal court on a pro rata basis equal to the costs
40 associated with management, administration, operation, judge and
41 staff salaries, and technology for the regional municipal court. The
42 remainder of the fines and costs collected by the regional municipal
43 court shall be distributed in accordance with N.J.S.22A:3-4,
44 R.S.39:5-40, R.S.39:5-41, and subsection c. of section 3 of
45 P.L.1979, c.396 (C.2C:46-4).

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SJU committee amendments adopted May 13, 2021.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

1 ¹b. A county participating in the pilot program may consider
2 determining budgets for participating municipalities in that county
3 by way of an assessment based on each participating municipality's
4 equalized value as determined by the appropriate county board of
5 taxation.¹

6
7 4. Judicial appointments to the regional municipal court shall
8 be made in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, Section
9 VI, paragraph 1 of the State Constitution. ²Municipal court judges
10 sitting in the municipal courts selected under section 1 of this act
11 may be considered for appointment to the regional municipal court.²
12 The assignment judge of the vicinage shall have the authority to
13 make a temporary appointment in the event of a vacancy.

14
15 5. ¹**【The】** Any regional municipal court established in a county
16 that is included in the pilot program pursuant to subsection b. of
17 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
18 this bill), because that ²qualified² county considered municipal
19 court consolidation on a county-wide basis prior to the enactment of
20 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
21 and submitted information on that previous consideration to the
22 Administrative Director of the Courts, shall begin hearing cases no
23 later than January 1, 2022, and any¹ regional municipal court ¹in
24 any other ²qualified² county selected by the Administrative Director
25 of the Courts for the¹ pilot ¹**【programs】** program¹ shall begin
26 hearing cases ¹no later than¹ one year following enactment.

27
28 6. This act shall take effect ¹**【180】** 60¹ days after enactment
29 except the Administrative Director of the Courts may take any
30 anticipatory action in advance as the director deems necessary for
31 the implementation of the pilot program.