

[Third 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)

Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

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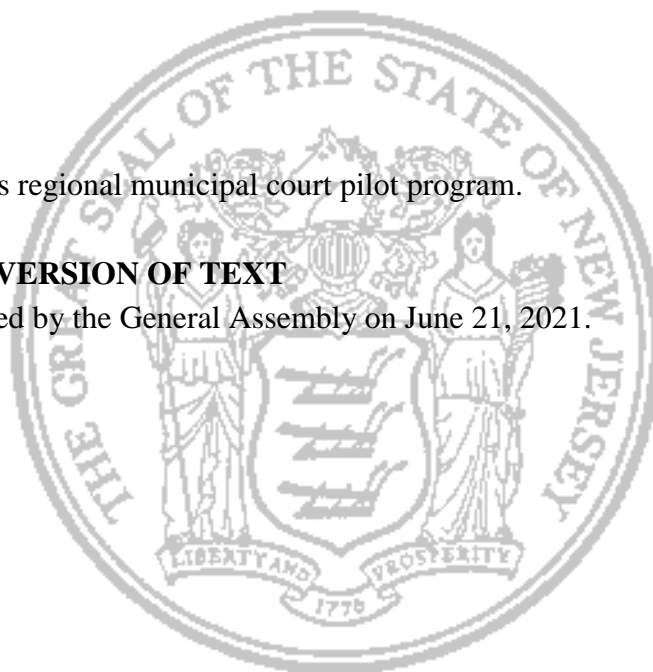
Senators Singleton, Gopal, Assemblymen Wirths and McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Establishes regional municipal court pilot program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on June 21, 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. ³The pilot program shall take place only in
11 municipalities and counties that apply to the Administrative Office
12 of the Courts to participate.³ The Administrative Director of the
13 Courts in consultation with the assignment judges shall select
14 appropriate counties and municipalities ¹from a list of those
15 counties and municipalities that have applied for the program¹ for
16 the implementation of the program.

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

22 c. ²To qualify for selection under this section, a county shall
23 have a population of less than 300,000 and a population density of
24 less than 500 people per square mile according to the 2010
25 decennial census. If one county in a multi-county vicinage qualifies,
26 all the counties in the vicinage qualify.² The population and
27 population density figures set forth in subsection e. of N.J.S. 2B:12-
28 1 shall not apply to any regional municipal court in any county
29 participating in this pilot program, including any county included
30 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.¹

31

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

40

41 3. ¹a.¹ Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fines
42 and costs collected by the regional municipal court shall be retained
43 by the regional municipal court on a pro rata basis equal to the costs
44 associated with management, administration, operation, judge and

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.

³Assembly floor amendments adopted June 21, 2021.

1 staff salaries, and technology for the regional municipal court. The
2 remainder of the fines and costs collected by the regional municipal
3 court shall be distributed in accordance with N.J.S.22A:3-4,
4 R.S.39:5-40, R.S.39:5-41, and subsection c. of section 3 of
5 P.L.1979, c.396 (C.2C:46-4).

6 ¹b. A county participating in the pilot program may consider
7 determining budgets for participating municipalities in that county
8 by way of an assessment based on each participating municipality's
9 equalized value as determined by the appropriate county board of
10 taxation.¹

11

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

19

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

32

33 6. This act shall take effect ¹**[180]** 60¹ days after enactment
34 except the Administrative Director of the Courts may take any
35 anticipatory action in advance as the director deems necessary for
36 the implementation of the pilot program.