

SENATE, No. 3061

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

3

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

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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 of
18 a “specified anatomical area” or by a “specified sexual activity” as
19 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 the
21 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
22 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 viral
38 disease known as coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19), which has
39 necessitated certain emergency measures to curtail its spread. As part
40 of these measures, on March 21, 2020, the Governor signed
41 Executive Order No. 107, which directed all residents to stay at home
42 until further notice and closed all non-essential businesses to the
43 public. This order affected thousands of businesses and especially
44 food establishments, some of whom shuttered their doors
45 permanently. In the months following this order, subsequent orders
46 have been signed lifting these restrictions as cases of COVID-19 have
47 fallen, and since June 15, 2020, food establishments have been able

1 to offer outdoor dining service, which has helped recoup some of
2 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 establishments
8 who were struggling financially, even after the reopening of outdoor
9 dining. Yet, with hospitalizations for COVID-19 having fallen 90
10 percent since April, and with the State on track to contain the disease,
11 the Governor reversed his decision to reopen indoor dining, citing a
12 rise in COVID-19 cases in other states. This decision, formalized
13 under Executive Order No. 158, severely affected food
14 establishments who hired additional staff and equipment in
15 anticipation of reopening, and may lead some establishments to close
16 permanently.

17 Under this bill, \$30 million will be allocated to the EDA from the
18 "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.