

ASSEMBLY, No. 645

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen IMPREVEDUTO and FELICE

1 AN ACT creating a Bioremediation Advisory Board and supplementing
2 Title 58 of the Revised Statutes.

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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 created in, but not of, the Department of
8 Environmental Protection a Bioremediation Advisory Board.
9 Notwithstanding the allocation of the board within the department, the
10 department or any employee thereof shall not exercise any control over
11 the board.

12 b. The Bioremediation Advisory Board shall consist of nine
13 members as follows: one member who shall be a representative from
14 the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology; one member
15 who shall be a representative from the Biotechnology Council of New
16 Jersey; one member who shall be a professor at Cook College of
17 Rutgers University and who shall have scientific knowledge on
18 bioremediation techniques and procedures; three members of the
19 public, each of whom shall have an engineering or advanced degree in
20 an area involving bioremediation procedures; and three members of the
21 public, each of whom shall have experience in the use of biotechnology
22 in the remediation of hazardous discharge sites. The members of the
23 board shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent
24 of the Senate. Members of the board shall serve three year terms
25 except that of the members first appointed, three shall serve one year
26 terms, three shall serve two year terms, and three shall serve three year
27 terms. Members shall serve in their position until a successor has been
28 duly appointed and qualified. Any vacancy on the board shall be filled
29 in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired
30 term only. Members of the board may be removed for cause.
31 Members of the board shall not be compensated for their service on
32 the board but members may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily
33 incurred in the performance of their duties to the extent such sums are
34 appropriated for this use by the Legislature.

1 c. The board shall select from among its members a chairperson
2 and a vice-chairperson who shall act for the chairperson in the
3 chairperson's absence. The board shall develop rules and procedures
4 for the conduct of its business. The board may meet upon the
5 appointment and qualification of five of its members. The board shall
6 meet at such time and place as the chairperson shall determine.
7 Actions of the board shall be taken only by a majority of the full
8 membership of the board.

9 d. It shall be the duty of the board to advise the Department of
10 Environmental Protection on the use of biotechnology techniques and
11 procedures in the remediation of hazardous discharge sites and to
12 encourage the department to approve the use of biotechnology
13 techniques and procedures in hazardous discharge site remediations.
14 The board may:

15 (1) prepare and submit any plans, reports, or documentation to the
16 department concerning the use of biotechnology techniques and
17 procedures in the remediation of hazardous discharge sites;

18 (2) respond to any inquiries of the department concerning
19 biotechnology techniques and procedures;

20 (3) testify and submit written comments to the department or to any
21 other State, federal, or local public entity concerning any proposed
22 law, rule, regulation, or other public decision involving the use of
23 biotechnology techniques and procedures in the remediation of
24 contaminated hazardous discharge sites; and

25 (4) hold any public hearings or meetings as necessary in order to
26 solicit information concerning the use of biotechnology in the
27 remediation of contaminated hazardous discharge sites.

28 e. The board may avail itself of the services of employees or
29 resources of the Department of Environmental Protection, any
30 executive State department, or any county or municipal government
31 to the extent those employees or resources are made available to the
32 board.

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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would create the Bioremediation Advisory Board. The
40 board would be allocated within the Department of Environmental
41 Protection but would be independent of any control by the department.
42 The board is charged with advising the department on matters
43 concerning the use of biotechnology techniques and procedures in the
44 remediation of hazardous discharge sites.

45 The board would consist of nine members, to be appointed by the
46 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The members

1 would include a representative from the New Jersey Commission on
2 Science and Technology; a representative from the Biotechnology
3 Council of New Jersey; a professor at Cook College of Rutgers
4 University with scientific knowledge of bioremediation processes;
5 three members of the public, each of whom shall have an engineering
6 or advanced degree in an area involving bioremediation strategies; and
7 three members of the public, each of whom shall have experience in
8 the use of biotechnology in the remediation of hazardous discharge
9 sites.

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14 Creates Bioremediation Advisory Board in DEP.