

**ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE**

**STATEMENT TO**

**ASSEMBLY, No. 665**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**DATED: JUNE 10, 1996**

The Assembly Environment, Science and Technology Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No.665.

This bill would create the "Upper Rahway River Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee," which would be composed of: (1) a representative of each river municipality, who shall be selected by the governing body of that municipality and who shall be a voting member of the committee; (2) a representative of Union county, who shall be selected by the governing body of that county and who shall be a voting member of the committee; (3) a representative of Essex county, who shall be selected by the governing body of that county and who shall be a voting member of the committee; and (4) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or a designee thereof, who shall serve ex officio and who shall be a nonvoting member of the committee.

Any municipality in Union county or Essex county that is not a river municipality may, through its governing body, request membership, with full voting privileges, on the committee. Such membership would be granted upon a majority vote of the voting membership of the committee.

"River municipalities" is defined in this bill to mean the Union county municipalities of Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Springfield, Summit, Union, Westfield, and Winfield, the Essex county municipalities of Maplewood, Millburn, Orange, South Orange, and West Orange, and any other Union or Essex county municipality that chooses to participate, and is accepted, as a member of the committee as provided in section 4 of the bill.

In order to facilitate achievement of the State goal, as set forth in this bill, to fully restore, promote, preserve, and maintain the environmental health and water quality of the upper Rahway river system, the committee would be required to:

- (1) develop recommended regional planning strategies and other regional policies, procedures, and model ordinances and resolutions, which would be implemented by each member municipality and county on a voluntary basis;
- (2) where appropriate, coordinate efforts of member municipalities and counties to clean up the upper Rahway river system or any

tributary or watershed land thereof;

(3) recommend appropriate State legislation and administrative action; and

(4) advocate, and where appropriate, act as a coordinating, distributing, or recipient agency for, federal and State funding of environmental protection projects in river municipalities and river counties, which projects may include the work of the committee.

This bill provides that the committee would dissolve in ten years unless the committee on an annual basis decides by unanimous vote to continue.

Under the bill the Department of Environmental Protection would provide technical and planning assistance to the Upper Rahway River Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1996-1997 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.