

ASSEMBLY, No. 774

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman BUONO

1 AN ACT concerning sinkholes, supplementing P.L.1967, c.76
2 (C.55:13A-1 et seq.), and making an appropriation.

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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. Within 45 days of the effective date of P.L. , c.
8 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
9 Department of Community Affairs shall prepare and publish
10 educational materials concerning the problem of sinkholes. The
11 materials shall include, but shall not be limited to, a discussion of the
12 dangers which sinkholes represent to the public, the causes of the
13 creation of sinkholes, a list of the symptoms which may lead to the
14 identification of sinkholes, and advise on how to conduct periodic
15 visual inspections to detect the presence of sinkholes. The department
16 shall distribute these educational materials to the owner and manager
17 of each multiple dwelling project, the administrator or board of
18 administration of each horizontal property regime established pursuant
19 to P.L.1963, c.168 (C.46:8A-1 et seq.), the governing board of each
20 condominium association established pursuant to P.L.1969, c.257
21 (C.46:8B-1 et seq.), and the association of each cooperative created
22 pursuant to P.L.1987, c.381 (C.46:8D-1 et seq.), and shall make the
23 materials available to any member of the general public who requests
24 them.

25 b. An owner, board or association shall preserve a record of
26 remedial action taken whenever the presence of a sinkhole has been
27 detected, and any such record shall be submitted to the person
28 performing an inspection pursuant to P.L.1967, c.67 (C.55:13A-1 et
29 seq.).

30 c. Inspections of multiple dwellings undertaken pursuant to section
31 13 of P.L.1967, c.76 (C.55:13A-13) shall include a visual inspection
32 for sinkholes.

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34 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Community Affairs
35 from the General Fund the sum of \$25,000 to effectuate the purposes

1 of this act.

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3 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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8 This bill requires the Department of Community Affairs to prepare
9 and publish educational materials concerning the problem of sinkholes.
10 It also requires the department to distribute these educational materials
11 to the owner and manager of each multiple dwelling project, the
12 administrator or board of administration of each horizontal property
13 regime, the governing board of each condominium association, and the
14 association of each cooperative, and to make the materials available to
15 members of the public who request them.

16 The bill requires owners, boards and associations to preserve
17 records of remedial action taken when a sinkhole is detected, and to
18 submit these records to the person performing an inspection pursuant
19 to section 13 of P.L.1967, c.76 (C.55:13A-13).

20 The bill provides that these inspections shall include a visual
21 inspection of sinkholes.

22 The bill appropriates \$25,000 to the Department of Community
23 Affairs from the General Fund to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

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28 Establishes certain requirements concerning sinkholes.