

ASSEMBLY, No. 987

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman GEIST

1 AN ACT establishing limits on certain State appropriations.

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

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6 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary,
7 the amount appropriated from the State General Fund, the "Casino
8 Control Fund" established pursuant to section 143 of P.L.1977, c.110
9 (C.5:12-143), and the Property Tax Relief Fund established pursuant
10 to N.J.S.54A:9-25, by the annual appropriations acts for the State
11 fiscal years ending June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999
12 shall not exceed the total amount of the original and supplemental
13 appropriations for those funds for the State fiscal year ending June 30,
14 1996; provided however, that amounts appropriated from those funds
15 as State aid to local governments and school districts by the annual
16 appropriations acts for the State fiscal years ending June 30, 1997,
17 June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999 shall not be less than the amounts so
18 appropriated pursuant to P.L.1995, c.164, the annual appropriations
19 act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996.

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21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill establishes a three year spending freeze by limiting the
27 amount of State funds that can be appropriated in the annual
28 appropriations act. The bill limits State General Fund, Casino Control
29 Fund and Property Tax Relief Fund appropriations in the annual
30 appropriations acts for fiscal years 1997, 1998 and 1999 to the
31 amounts appropriated for fiscal year 1996. The appropriations act
32 spending limits set by this bill will rein in State expenditures.

33 This bill does not freeze appropriations from the Casino Revenue
34 Fund in the annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 1997, 1998 and
35 1999. The Casino Revenue fund is used exclusively for reductions in

1 property taxes, rent and utility bills of senior citizens and disable
2 residents of the State. This bill would also not affect spending from
3 the Gubernatorial Elections Fund, which is used only for campaign
4 expenses for the primary and general governor's elections.

5 This bill protects property tax payers by establishing a minimum
6 level of property tax relief equal to the State aid to local governments
7 and school districts appropriated in the fiscal year 1996 annual
8 appropriations act. This protection ensures that the freeze in State
9 total spending will not be achieved by shifting State revenue away
10 from property tax relief.

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15 Limits certain annual appropriations act spending authorization.