

ASSEMBLY, No. 1310

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen CHARLES and DeCROCE

1 AN ACT directing the Department of Transportation to establish a
2 demonstration project.

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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. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The erection of noise barriers along the highways of this State
9 has helped to alleviate the problems of noise pollution in densely
10 populated areas bordering these highways;

11 b. The Department of Transportation has recently been required to
12 use State funds to offset the lack of funding from federal noise barrier
13 programs, thereby causing project delays while an increasing number
14 of municipalities are waiting for noise barriers to be built in their
15 communities;

16 c. The State has spent \$115.5 million on its noise barrier program,
17 with concrete or wooden barriers having a cost of \$2 million per mile,
18 while other surrounding states have spent considerably less on their
19 noise barrier programs;

20 d. The State needs to examine the problems of the cost and
21 maintenance of noise barriers, including the cost of graffiti removal,
22 and to study viable alternatives to the current materials used in these
23 barriers, such as the use of recycled plastic, as is being done in the
24 State of California, with the intent of creating a potential market for
25 recycled materials;

26 e. It is in the public interest for the Department of Transportation
27 to develop a demonstration project at three sites in the northern,
28 central and southern regions of the State to examine the benefits and
29 risks of using recycled materials to the maximum extent possible in the
30 construction of highway noise barriers.

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32 2. The Commissioner of Transportation, after consultation with the
33 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, shall develop a
34 demonstration project to examine the benefits and risks of using
35 recycled materials to the greatest extent possible in the construction
36 of highway noise barriers. As part of this demonstration project, the
37 Commissioner of Transportation shall choose three sites, one in each

1 of the northern, central and southern regions of the State where the
2 project is to take place. The Commissioner of Transportation, after
3 consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and
4 after reviewing federal engineering standards, shall develop criteria for
5 the nature and composition of recycled materials to be used in the
6 noise barriers. Such criteria shall include, but not be limited to,
7 structural engineering needs, acoustical effects, cost effectiveness,
8 performance and safety standards, aesthetics, use of recycled plastics,
9 creation of markets for recyclable materials, and standards for
10 repelling graffiti. In order to carry out the purposes of this act, the
11 Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to contract for and to
12 accept any gifts or grants or loans of funds or property or financial or
13 other aid in any form from the United States of America or any agency
14 or instrumentality thereof, or from the State or any agency,
15 instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, or from any other
16 source including assistance from appropriate sources at Rutgers, the
17 State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Stevens
18 Institute of Technology, and to comply, subject to the provisions of
19 the act, with the terms and conditions thereof. The Commissioner of
20 Transportation shall prepare a report to the Legislature within two
21 years from the effective date of this act, identifying the department's
22 progress in using these materials and any technical findings regarding
23 the costs and benefits of such usage.

24 For the purposes of this section, "northern region" means the
25 counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union
26 and Warren; "central region" means the counties of Hunterdon,
27 Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset; and "southern
28 region" means the remaining seven counties of the State.

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30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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35 Directs DOT Commissioner to establish demonstration project to
36 maximize use of recycled materials in highway noise barriers.