

ASSEMBLY, No. 2637

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 9, 1997

By Assemblyman O'TOOLE

1 AN ACT concerning the appropriation of moneys from the "Water
2 Conservation Bond Act," P.L.1969, c.127, for the cost of
3 acquisition of lands in Sterling Forest for the purpose of
4 augmenting, increasing, improving, preserving, protecting, or
5 conserving natural water resources and supplies important to New
6 Jersey and facilitating recreational uses incidental thereto, and
7 amending P.L.1995, c.7.

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9 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
10 of New Jersey:

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12 1. Section 1 of P.L.1995, c.7 is amended to read as follows:
13 1. a. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
14 Protection from the "Water Conservation Fund" established pursuant
15 to section 13 of the "Water Conservation Bond Act," P.L.1969, c.127,
16 for distribution to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the sum
17 [up to] of \$10,000,000 for the acquisition of lands or interests therein
18 by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in Sterling Forest, New
19 York, for the purpose of augmenting, increasing, improving,
20 preserving, protecting, or conserving natural water resources and
21 supplies important to New Jersey and facilitating recreational uses
22 incidental thereto. Upon the enactment of the federal "Omnibus
23 Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996," Pub. L. 104-333,
24 and within 60 days of the effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending
25 before the Legislature as this bill), the Department of Environmental
26 Protection shall distribute to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission
27 the sum of \$10,000,000 appropriated pursuant to this subsection as
28 New Jersey's share of the purchase. The Palisades Interstate Park
29 Commission shall hold these funds in an interest bearing account until
30 such time as a purchase agreement has been consummated and the
31 funds are required. Any interest that accrues on the funds in the
32 account shall be periodically transferred to the State Treasurer who
33 shall immediately deposit the interest earnings to the credit of the
34 General Fund. If no purchase agreement is entered into within three

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 years of the effective date of P.L. , c (now pending before the
2 Legislature as this bill), \$10,000,000 shall be returned to the
3 Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes expressed
4 in the "Water Conservation Bond Act," P.L.1969, c.127. Any
5 remaining undistributed interest earnings in the account shall be
6 transferred to the State Treasurer who shall immediately deposit the
7 interest earnings to the credit of the General Fund. The Department
8 of Environmental Protection shall be satisfied that any moneys
9 expended pursuant to this section are consistent with the fair market
10 value of the lands or interests therein purchased.

11 b. To the extent that the balance of the moneys available in the
12 "Water Conservation Fund" that have not been previously
13 appropriated pursuant to law is insufficient to support the sum
14 appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the following
15 shall be made available from the "Water Conservation Fund" to
16 support the remainder of the appropriation made in subsection a. as
17 required: (1) moneys returned to the "Water Conservation Fund" due
18 to project withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings involving
19 projects previously funded by law; and (2) moneys previously
20 appropriated by law from the "Water Conservation Fund" to fund
21 projects but for which no such moneys have been expended, other than
22 for administrative or program purposes, in the five-year period
23 immediately prior to the effective date of this act, or to fund projects
24 deemed by the Department of Environmental Protection as of the
25 effective date of this act to be no longer active, the previous
26 appropriation of which is cancelled subject to the approval of the Joint
27 Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.
28 (cf: P.L.1995, c.7, s.1)

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30 2. Section 4 of P.L.1995, c.7 is amended to read as follows:

31 4. This act shall take effect immediately, except that section 1 of
32 this act shall take effect upon [enactment of substantially similar
33 legislation by] the State of New York [appropriating] committing the
34 sum of at least \$10,000,000 [and by the federal government
35 appropriating a sum of at least \$17,500,000] for the acquisition of
36 lands in Sterling Forest, New York, for the purpose of augmenting,
37 increasing, improving, preserving, protecting, and conserving natural
38 water resources and supplies, or for recreation and conservation or
39 similar purposes. [In no event shall New Jersey's contribution to the
40 purchase of Sterling Forest when added to New York's contribution,
41 exceed the amount of the federal appropriation. The obligation of
42 funds pursuant to section 1 of this act shall expire if no agreement to
43 purchase lands in Sterling Forest has been executed within three years
44 of the date of enactment of this act.]

45 (cf: P.L.1995, c.7, s.4)

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 The bil changes the effective date of section 1 of P.L.1995, c.7, by
7 providing that it shall take effect when the State of New York has
8 committed at least \$10 million to the acquisition of lands in Sterling
9 Forest.

10 The bill further clarifies that upon the enactment of the federal
11 "Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996," Pub. L.
12 104-333 (the federal law authorizing the appropriation of not more
13 than \$17.5 million for the acquisition of lands within Sterling Forest,
14 New York), and within 60 days following the effective date of this bill,
15 the Department of Environmental Protection will distribute to the
16 Palisades Interstate Park Commission \$10 million constituting New
17 Jersey's share of the purchase money for lands in Sterling Forest, to be
18 held in an interest bearing account until a purchase agreement is
19 consummated. Any interest that accrues on the funds held in the
20 interest bearing account shall be periodically transferred to the State
21 Treasurer and credited to the General Fund.

22 If no agreement is entered into within three years of the enactment
23 of this bill, the bill directs that \$10 million be returned to the
24 Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes expressed
25 in the "Water Conservation Bond Act," P.L.1969, c.127, and any
26 remaining undistributed interest in the account be transferred to the
27 State Treasurer for immediate deposit in the General Fund.

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32 Makes P.L.1995, c.7 effective immediately; requires Palisades
33 Interstate Park Commission to hold funds in interest bearing account
34 until purchase agreement for Sterling Forest lands is consummated;
35 requires return of funds to DEP if no agreement is consummated
36 within three years.