

ASSEMBLY, No. 2639

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 9, 1997

By Assemblyman CORODEMUS

1 A SUPPLEMENT to "An Act making appropriations for the support of
2 the State Government and the several public purposes for the fiscal
3 year ending June 30, 1997 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved June 28, 1996 (P.L.1996, c.42).

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6 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.1996, c.42,
10 there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for
11 the purpose specified:

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14 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

15 42. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

16 40. Community Development and Environmental Management

17 42. Natural Resource Management

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20 Capital Project:

21 Restoration of The Thomas A. Edison
22 Memorial Tower in Edison (\$782,000)

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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27 STATEMENT

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29 This bill makes a supplemental appropriation for Fiscal Year 1997 of
30 \$782,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental
31 Protection for the restoration of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Tower
32 in Edison, Middlesex County. The tower is currently closed to be public
33 because it is in a serious state of disrepair and in dire need of restoration
34 and preservation due primarily to deteriorating concrete. The Tower is
35 owned and managed by the State, but leased to the city of Edison which
36 handles the day-to-day operations.

37 The Thomas A. Edison Memorial Tower in Edison marks the

1 location of Thomas Edison's laboratory and manufacturing facilities in
2 Menlo Park. Edison worked at this located from 1876 to 1886. The
3 tower commemorates the achievements of Thomas Edison at the very
4 site where these achievements took place. In addition to its historical
5 significance, the tower is also architecturally significant. The tower is
6 one of the last works of John J. Earley, a pioneer in the field of
7 architectural concrete, and is one of two monuments in this State
8 designed in the Art Deco style.

9 The tower is listed on both the State and National Register of
10 Historic Places. Therefore, the tower is significant architecturally and
11 historically for both this State and the nation and deserves every effort
12 made toward its restoration and preservation.

13 A grant in the amount of \$781,527, representing one half of the total
14 project costs, has been approved by the New Jersey Historic Trust and
15 appropriated on January 10, 1996 by P.L.1995, c.420 to the Division of
16 Parks and Forestry in the Department of Environmental Protection; the
17 grant funds were appropriated from the "1992 Historic Preservation
18 Fund" established pursuant to the "Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland
19 and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992," P.L.1992, c.88.
20 However, matching funds of 50 percent of the project cost must also be
21 provided from other sources before the project can proceed. This bill
22 represents those matching funds. If the project has not progressed to the
23 point where the department can claim a certain portion of the grant
24 award by January 10, 1998, the New Jersey Historic Trust may take
25 action to revoke the award. To date, there has been no significant
26 progress on the project.

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31 Supplemental appropriation for FY 1997 of \$782,000 from the General
32 Fund to DEP for restoration of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Tower
33 in Edison.