

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 49

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman DALTON

- 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the Legislature and Governor
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to enact legislation having an
3 identical effect with P.L.1991, c.400 (C.32:3-4.5 et seq.) which directs the
4 Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) to declare its meetings open to the
5 public and news media.
6
- 7 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Board of Commissioners of the Delaware
8 River Port Authority (DRPA), in non-compliance with the spirit and intent
9 of its compact and by-laws, has held meetings closed to the public and the
10 news media, thus preventing the public's observance of the full details of all
11 phases of deliberation, policy-making and decision-making of the board;
12 and
- 13 WHEREAS, As a bistate authority organized under a compact approved by
14 Congress, the DRPA is exempt from the provisions of "open public
15 meeting," or "sunshine" statutes in both the State of New Jersey and the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Recent actions of the DRPA have resulted in agreements under
18 which the DRPA would annually pay nearly eight million dollars to the City
19 of Philadelphia and spend several million dollars on economic development
20 projects, and the method of raising those additional monies will fall
21 disproportionately on New Jersey commuters through increased fees,
22 fares, and tolls on the authority's facilities, as well as reduced transit
23 services; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Since the DRPA Board of Commissioners deliberates on budget
25 and long-range planning matters which involve millions of dollars of public
26 monies, the State of New Jersey sought to require that the meetings of the
27 board be open to the public and news media pursuant the enactment of
28 P.L.1991, c.400 (C.32:3-4.5 et seq.); however, the Commonwealth of
29 Pennsylvania must adopt legislation having an identical effect with
30 P.L.1991, c.400, in order for that policy to go into effect; now, therefore,
31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey
32 (the Senate concurring):

