

SENATE, No. 1430

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JULY 25, 1996

By Senators CIESLA and SINGER

1 AN ACT concerning government response to environmental and health  
2 issues and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. There is created in the Department of Health, a Coordinating  
8 Council for the Resolution of Environmental and Health Issues. The  
9 Council shall consist of the Commissioner of Health, the  
10 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of  
11 Community Affairs, or their designees and a representative from the  
12 Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety.  
13 The Commissioner of Health or a designee shall act as chairman.

14 b. The coordinating council shall develop a plan to coordinate State  
15 government's response to significant environmental and health threats,  
16 including emergencies involving hazardous substances, health  
17 problems that may be the result of environmental exposures, or  
18 discoveries of hazardous substances that may pose a localized health  
19 threat. The coordinating council shall develop a plan for the most  
20 effective governmental response to environmental problems and health  
21 threats. The plan shall coordinate the activities of State departments  
22 and agencies and of local government; define the roles of various  
23 concerned State, federal and local agencies; develop the most effective  
24 system for the communication of information to the public; review the  
25 resources available on the local, State and federal levels and develop  
26 a system to efficiently access those resources; and make  
27 recommendations for regulatory or legislative changes in order to  
28 allow the State to more effectively respond to environmental and  
29 health problems. The coordinating council shall update the plan  
30 periodically.

31 c. The coordinating council shall submit its plan to the Governor  
32 and the Legislature and any recommendations for legislative action no  
33 later than six months after the effective date of this act.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

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This bill would establish the Coordinating Council for the Resolution of Environmental and Health Issues. The Coordinating Council would be required to develop a plan to coordinate State government's response to significant environmental problems and health threats, including emergencies involving hazardous substances, health problems that may be the result of environmental exposures, or discoveries of hazardous substances that may pose a local health threat. The coordinating council would establish a plan for the most effective governmental response to environmental and health problems, including a method for the coordination of the activities of State departments and agencies and of local government. The plan would define the roles of various concerned State, federal and local agencies; develop the most effective system for the communication of information to the public; review the resources available on the local, State and federal levels and develop a system to efficiently access those resources; and make recommendations for regulatory or legislative changes in order to allow the State to more effectively respond to environmental and health problems.

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Establishes Coordinating Council for the Resolution of Environmental and Health Issues.