

SENATE, No. 1577

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 1996

By Senators GORMLEY and ZANE

1 **AN ACT** establishing a venison donation demonstration program.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in
7 consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the
8 Secretary of Agriculture and the chairman of the Fish and Game
9 Council, shall establish a venison donation demonstration program.
10 The program shall permit, under controlled conditions, the slaughter,
11 processing, distribution, and serving of venison donated by
12 recreational hunters to nonprofit charitable organizations, in
13 accordance with guidelines established by the Commissioner of Health
14 and Senior Services and the State Fish and Game Code established
15 pursuant to section 32 of P.L.1948, c.448 (C.13:1B-30), in order to
16 protect the health and safety of those persons consuming the donated
17 venison.

18 b. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in
19 consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the
20 Secretary of Agriculture, the chairman of the Fish and Game Council,
21 and the United Bow Hunters of New Jersey, shall study the feasibility
22 of expanding the program to include venison obtained from hunters
23 licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection to participate
24 in crop depredation control activities, and shall expand the program
25 accordingly if the commissioner deems it appropriate.

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27 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in
28 consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the
29 Secretary of Agriculture and the chairman of the Fish and Game
30 Council, shall report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than
31 three years after the effective date of this act on the results of the
32 program, accompanying that report with any recommendations
33 concerning the feasibility of establishing a permanent venison donation
34 program and including recommendations concerning the need for
35 legislation to control, restrict, or promote venison donation activities.

3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall develop guidelines, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Agriculture and the chairman of the Fish and Game Council, to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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6 4. P.L.1993, c.355 (C.24:16B-61.1) is repealed.

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8 5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire three years
9 after the effective date.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill would establish a three-year venison donation
15 demonstration program in the Department of Health and Senior
16 Services to permit, under controlled conditions, the slaughter,
17 processing, distribution, and serving of venison donated by
18 recreational hunters to nonprofit charitable organizations, in
19 accordance with guidelines established by the Commissioner of Health
20 and Senior Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of
21 Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Agriculture and the
22 chairman of the Fish and Game Council. The program will be
23 implemented in consultation with the Department of Environmental
24 Protection, the Department of Agriculture and the Fish and Game
25 Council.

26 The bill would provide statutory authority for an existing venison
27 donation demonstration project and assess the feasibility of expanding
28 this activity as a way of assisting nonprofit organizations that provide
29 food to indigent persons.

30 The bill would repeal P.L.1993, c.355 (C.24:16B-6.1), which
31 allows hunters to donate meat to organizations that feed the poor.
32 That law is replaced by the program established by the provisions in
33 this bill.

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38 Establishes a venison donation demonstration program in the
39 Department of Health and Senior Services.