

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 1672

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 1996

By Senators LITTELL, McNAMARA, Martin and Kyrillos

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 ¹[federal law authorizing
23 \$17,500,000 for the acquisition of Sterling Forest in New York, and
24 appropriating any portion thereof.] the federal "Omnibus Parks and
25 Public Lands Management Act of 1996," Pub. L. 104-333, and within
26 60 days of the effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending before the
27 Legislature as this bill),¹ the Department of Environmental Protection
28 shall distribute to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission the sum of
29 \$10,000,000 appropriated pursuant to this subsection as New Jersey's
30 share of the purchase. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission shall

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SBA committee amendments adopted November 18, 1996.

1 hold these funds in an interest bearing account until such time as a
2 purchase agreement has been consummated and the funds are required.
3 Any interest that accrues on the funds shall be used for the acquisition
4 of the lands in Sterling Forest, New York, or costs related thereto. If
5 no purchase agreement is entered into within three years of the
6 effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending before the Legislature
7 as this bill), the funds shall be returned to the Department of
8 Environmental Protection for the purposes expressed in the "Water
9 Conservation Bond Act," P.L.1969, c.127. The Department of
10 Environmental Protection shall be satisfied that any moneys expended
11 pursuant to this section are consistent with the fair market value of the
12 lands or interests therein purchased.

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

30 (cf: P.L.1995, c.7, s.1)

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

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

1 in Sterling Forest has been executed within three years of the date of
2 enactment of this act.]
3 (cf: P.L.1995, c.7, s.4)

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5 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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