

SENATE, No. 1748

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 1996

By Senator SINAGRA

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).

5
6 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8
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:

12
13 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

14 42. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

15 40. Community Development and Environmental Management

16 42. Natural Resource Management

17
18
19 Capital Project:

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

22
23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

24
25
26 STATEMENT

27
28 This bill makes a supplemental appropriation for Fiscal Year 1997 of
29 \$782,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental
30 Protection for the restoration of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Tower
31 in Edison, Middlesex County. The tower is currently closed to be public
32 because it is in a serious state of disrepair and in dire need of restoration
33 and preservation due primarily to deteriorating concrete. The Tower is
34 owned and managed by the State, but leased to the city of Edison which
35 handles the day-to-day operations.

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

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

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

28
29
30
31
32 Supplemental appropriation for FY1997 of \$782,000 from the General
33 Fund to DEP for restoration of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Tower
34 in Edison.