

SENATE, No. 1790

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 1997

By Senators CIESLA and SINGER

1 AN ACT establishing a study group in the Department of
2 Environmental Protection to study pollution problems in the
3 Metedeconk Creek and Toms River basins, supplementing Title 13
4 of the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation therefor.
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6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*
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9 1. a. There is established within the Division of Science and
10 Research in the Department of Environmental Protection the
11 Metedeconk Creek and Toms River Basin Study Group. The study
12 group shall be composed of nine staff persons, to be named by the
13 director of the division, each with expertise in at least one of the
14 following areas: water supply management, water quality monitoring,
15 watershed management, nonpoint source pollution, pollution
16 prevention, and risk assessment. The director of the division shall
17 serve as executive director of the study group. Staff persons may be
18 selected from any division or office within the department. The study
19 group shall meet and commence its duties as soon as practicable.

20 b. It shall be the duty of the study group to conduct a study of the
21 ecology of the Metedeconk Creek and Toms River basins and the
22 groundwater and aquifers located beneath these basins, which shall
23 include, but need not be limited to, an assessment of: the quality of the
24 water supply, including the groundwater and aquifers located beneath
25 the basins; the type and quantity of pollutants and hazardous
26 substances identified in both the surface waters and groundwaters; the
27 sources, or suspected sources, of the pollutants and hazardous
28 substances identified; and the risks to human and animal health of the
29 pollutants and hazardous substances identified.

30 c. The study group shall be authorized to:

31 (1) call to its assistance the services of employees of any federal,
32 State, county or municipal department, board, commission or agency;
33 and

34 (2) employ or contract with consulting engineers, biologists,
35 chemists, epidemiologists, and such other consultants as may be
36 required in the judgment of the executive director of the study group
37 to carry out the purposes of this act, and to fix and pay their

1 compensation from funds available to the study group therefor, all
2 without regard to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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5 2. Upon completion of the study conducted pursuant to section 1
6 of this act, the study group shall make final recommendations for
7 action to address any problems identified in its findings. A report
8 containing the findings made pursuant to section 1 of this act and the
9 recommendations required pursuant to this section shall be transmitted
10 to the Legislature within one year of the effective date of this act. The
11 study group shall expire upon transmission of its report to the
12 Legislature.

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14 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
15 of Environmental Protection the sum of \$250,000 to carry out the
16 purposes of this act.

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18 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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21 STATEMENT

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23 This bill would establish within the Division of Science and
24 Research in the Department of Environmental Protection the
25 Metedeconk Creek and Toms River Basin Study Group to study the
26 ecology of the Metedeconk Creek and Toms River basins and to make
27 recommendations to address the problems identified. The study group
28 would be composed of nine staff persons, to be named by the director
29 of the division, each with expertise in at least one of the following
30 areas: water supply management, water quality monitoring, watershed
31 management, nonpoint source pollution, pollution prevention, and risk
32 assessment. Staff persons may be selected from any division or office
33 within the department.

34 The study group would be required to study the ecology of these
35 river basins and the aquifers located beneath these basins, and shall
36 include, but need not be limited to, as assessment of: the quality of the
37 water supply, including the aquifers located beneath the basins; the
38 type and quantity of pollutants and hazardous substances identified in
39 both the surface waters and aquifers; the sources, or suspected
40 sources, of the pollutants and hazardous substances identified; and the
41 risks to human and animal health of the pollutants and hazardous
42 substances identified.

43 The bill authorizes the study group to call to its assistance the
44 services of employees of any federal, State, county or municipal
45 department, board, commission or agency. The study group may also
46 employ or contract with consulting engineers, biologists, chemists,

1 epidemiologists, and any other consultants that may be required in the
2 judgment of the executive director of the study group to carry out the
3 purposes of the study group. The bill appropriates \$250,000 to the
4 department to support the costs of the study group, including any
5 costs associated with hiring outside consultants.

6 Upon completion of the study, the study group would make final
7 recommendations for action to address the problems identified in its
8 findings. A report containing the findings and recommendations would
9 be transmitted to the Legislature within one year of the effective date
10 of this act. The study group would expire upon transmission of its
11 report to the Legislature.

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16 Establishes study group in DEP to study Metedeconk Creek and Toms
17 River basins and to make recommendations.