

SENATE, No. 2070

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 15, 1997

By Senators CAFIERO and ZANE

1 AN ACT designating the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey
2 State Tall Ship and making an appropriation.
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4 WHEREAS, The A.J. Meerwald is a Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner,
5 built to meet the needs of New Jersey's oyster fishing industry
6 which, at the time, was the backbone of the region's economy and
7 culture; and
8 WHEREAS, Constructed in 1928 in Dorchester, New Jersey, the A.J.
9 Meerwald was one of hundreds of schooners built along South
10 Jersey's Delaware bayshore representing a nationally significant
11 vessel type designed and built only in New Jersey; and
12 WHEREAS, The Delaware Bay Schooner Project was founded in 1988
13 to conserve and enrich the history, culture and environment of the
14 Delaware Estuary and the coastal waters of New Jersey; and
15 WHEREAS, The A.J. Meerwald was donated to the Delaware Bay
16 Schooner Project in 1989 and was painstakingly restored by
17 dedicated New Jerseyans; and
18 WHEREAS, The Delaware Bay Schooner Project uses the ship as a
19 sailing classroom to promote ecological and historical awareness of
20 the Delaware Bay and the waters of New Jersey; and
21 WHEREAS, In 1995, the A.J. Meerwald was added to the National
22 Register of Historic Places; and,
23 WHEREAS, New Jersey is a maritime state with a rich heritage and
24 vast natural legacy worthy of celebration, recognition and
25 stewardship; and
26 WHEREAS, The A.J. Meerwald is an ideal symbol of New Jersey's
27 great heritage and an effective classroom for teaching the youth of
28 New Jersey; now, therefore,
29
30 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
31 *of New Jersey:*
32
33 1. The schooner A.J. Meerwald is designated as the New Jersey
34 State Tall Ship.

