

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 107

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 1, 1997

By Senators KYRILLOS and CAFIERO

1 A **SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Congress of the United States to  
2 reauthorize and appropriate funding for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage  
3 Trail.

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5 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail was authorized by the  
6 Congress of the United States in 1988 as a public/private partnership to  
7 provide for the understanding and enjoyment of sites associated with the  
8 coastal areas of New Jersey, and the project exemplifies partnership  
9 programs that have become increasingly important nationally in protecting  
10 significant natural and cultural resources; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The Trail has been designated to include a 300-mile section of  
12 coastline in the State from Perth Amboy in Middlesex County south  
13 through portions of Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, and Atlantic counties  
14 to Cape May in Cape May County and west through portions of Cape  
15 May, Cumberland, and Salem counties to the Delaware Memorial Bridge  
16 in Deepwater, with the Trail region being east of the Garden State Parkway  
17 and south of State Route 49; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The goals of the Trail include protecting resources through  
19 interpretation, education, and research; creating public advocacy for  
20 resource protection through expanded awareness of the coast's  
21 significance; and ensuring that resources are not threatened or adversely  
22 affected because of designation as part of the Trail. **WHEREAS**, The  
23 Coastal Heritage Trail benefits New Jersey by bringing national recognition  
24 and stature to many of New Jersey's special places; by helping to  
25 contribute to tourism, the State's second largest industry; by providing a  
26 unique opportunity for the State to capitalize on the expertise, technical  
27 assistance, and resources of the National Park Service in developing  
28 interpretive exhibits and brochures for Trail sites; and by building public  
29 support for the outstanding resources managed through the State park  
30 system through identification as Trail sites and development of expanded  
31 interpretive programs and exhibits; and

32 **WHEREAS**, While federal funding, pursuant to section 6 of Public Law 100-  
33 515 (16 U.S.C. S.1244), has been essential in providing the resources  
34 necessary to begin and complete construction of a portion of the  
35 interpretative trails envisioned by the various federal, State and private

1 organizations and individuals involved, it is due to reach the federal  
2 authorization ceiling level of \$1 million in federal fiscal year 1998, and there  
3 is no further appropriation for the Coastal Heritage Trail contained in any  
4 federal budget legislation proposed to date; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Additional funding is needed for construction of two of the five  
6 theme trails originally planned, and for three more welcome centers along  
7 the trails; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli have introduced Senate Bill  
9 No. 1016, which would increase the authorization level for the Trail to \$4  
10 million, and extend the authorization to the year 2004, which would give the  
11 National Park Service the additional time and funding necessary to  
12 complete the remaining trails; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Although the National Park Service has successfully raised, as a  
14 result of the requirement imposed in the original federal authorizing  
15 legislation that it match 50 percent of its appropriations for the Trail with  
16 non-federal funds, over \$818,000 in non-federal funds, thus greatly  
17 exceeding the targeted amount, this has only provided enough funding to  
18 complete the existing trails and accommodate annual operating expenses;  
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, There is still much to be done before the New Jersey Coastal  
21 Heritage Trail is completed, and additional federal funding authorizations  
22 and appropriations would ensure that this relatively small investment is in  
23 place to preserve the rich history of New Jersey and the Nation; now,  
24 therefore,

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26 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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28 1. This House urges the Congress of the United States to pass Senate Bill  
29 No. 1016, which would reauthorize up to \$4 million in federal funds through  
30 the year 2004 for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, and to appropriate  
31 the funds necessary for the continuation and eventual completion of this  
32 important natural and cultural resource project.

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34 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of  
35 the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the  
36 President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the  
37 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
38 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, each member  
39 of Congress elected thereto from this State, the Secretary of the Department  
40 of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service and the  
41 Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

## 1 STATEMENT

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3 This resolution urges the Congress of the United States to reauthorize  
4 funding for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, and to appropriate these  
5 reauthorized funds for this important natural and cultural resource program.  
6 Of the five trails originally planned by the National Park Service, only three  
7 will have been constructed and completed by February 1998. Two trails and  
8 three welcome centers will still require federal funds for their completion. The  
9 National Park Service, together with State officials and private individuals and  
10 organizations, has raised over \$800,000 thus far to more than meet the federal  
11 requirement for matching funds. However, additional federal funds are needed  
12 to make the Coastal Heritage Trail a reality. The additional funds are a  
13 relatively small investment to preserve the rich history of New Jersey and the  
14 nation.

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19 Urges Congress to reauthorize and appropriate funds for completion of NJ  
20 Coastal Heritage Trail.