

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 52

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Senator CODEY

1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** requesting the Senate Budget and Appropriations  
2       Committee to maintain the Bureau of Emergency Response in the  
3       Department of Environmental Protection at its Fiscal Year 1996 budget  
4       and staffing level.

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6   **WHEREAS**, The Bureau of Emergency Response in the Department of  
7       Environmental Protection is the front-line State agency responsible for  
8       immediate on-site response to spills and discharges of oil and hazardous  
9       substances, chemical plant explosions and fires, and train derailments, and  
10      for oversight of the cleanup of such environmental disasters by private  
11      contractors; and

12   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey, with its many miles of exposed shorelines, and its  
13      location in the midst of a huge concentration of the petro-chemical industry,  
14      is especially dependent on a first-rate emergency response capability, and  
15      over the years the Bureau of Emergency Response has never failed to fill  
16      this important role; and

17   **WHEREAS**, The recent 40,000 gallon oil spill in the waters off the beaches of  
18      Cape May and Atlantic Counties was the most recent example of the  
19      State's vulnerability to oil spills and its need for a well trained and  
20      experienced emergency response team; and

21   **WHEREAS**, The Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 1997 budget potentially  
22      would reduce the number of emergency response specialists in the Bureau  
23      of Emergency Response from 16 to 13, which, when the effects of  
24      "bumping" are taken into account, may leave the Bureau with less than ten  
25      experienced emergency response specialists, all at a time when the annual  
26      number of environmental emergencies requiring the Bureau's response is  
27      increasing; now, therefore,

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

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31      1. The Senate of the State of New Jersey finds that the proposed Fiscal  
32      Year Reductions in the staffing levels of the Bureau of Emergency Response  
33      in the Department of environmental Protection would seriously weaken the  
34      State's ability to respond to environmental disasters, and therefore the Senate  
35      Budget and Appropriations Committee is requested to restore the Bureau of

1 Emergency Response in the Department of Environmental Protection to its  
2 Fiscal Year 1996 staffing level.

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4 2. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the President of  
5 the Senate and attested to by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the  
6 Governor, the State Treasurer, and the Commissioner of the Department of  
7 Environmental Protection.

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10 STATEMENT

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12 This Senate Resolution would request the Senate Budget and  
13 Appropriations Committee to restore the Bureau of Emergency Response in  
14 the Department of Environmental Protection to its Fiscal Year 1996 staffing  
15 level. The Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 1997 Budget potentially would  
16 reduce the staffing level from 16 to 13, which would leave the State  
17 inadequately prepared to respond to an environmental disaster.

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22 Requests Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee to restore FY 97 cuts  
23 in staffing of Bureau of Emergency response.