

SENATE, No. 485

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES S. CAFIERO

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Senator RAYMOND J. ZANE

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Allen

SYNOPSIS

Designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey State Tall Ship; appropriates \$95,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/31/1998)

S485 CAFIERO, ZANE

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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,

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30 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
31 of New Jersey:

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33 1. The schooner A.J. Meerwald is designated as the New Jersey
34 State Tall Ship.

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36 2. There is appropriated \$95,000 from the General Fund to the
37 Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the maintenance and operation of
38 the A.J. Meerwald.

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40 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill designates the schooner A.J. Meerwald as the New Jersey
46 State Tall Ship and appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to the

1 Delaware Bay Schooner Project for the A.J. Meerwald's maintenance
2 and operation.

3 The A.J. Meerwald was a Delaware Bay oyster schooner, built to
4 meet the needs of the local oyster fishing industry. Constructed in
5 1928 in Dorchester, New Jersey, the A.J. Meerwald was one of
6 hundreds of schooners built along South Jersey's Delaware bayshore
7 before the decline of the ship building industry during the Great
8 Depression.

9 The Delaware Bay Schooner Project, founded in 1988 to conserve
10 and enrich the history, culture and environment of the Delaware
11 estuary, acquired the A.J. Meerwald by donation in 1989. The
12 Delaware Bay Schooner Project uses the ship as a sailing classroom to
13 promote ecological and historical awareness of the Delaware Bay
14 region. In 1995, the A.J. Meerwald was added to the National
15 Register of Historic Places.