

ASSEMBLY, No. 1579

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 11 (Monmouth)

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District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DEP to develop beach accessibility guidelines for persons with disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning guidelines for beach accessibility for persons
2 with disabilities, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. Within one year after the effective date of this act, the
9 Department of Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the
10 Department of Human Services, develop guidelines for specific
11 facilities and accommodations necessary to provide accessibility to
12 beaches for persons with disabilities. The guidelines shall include
13 recommendations for ramps, restrooms, showers, boardwalks, surf
14 chairs, parking, and any other facilities deemed appropriate.

15 b. When developing the guidelines pursuant to subsection a. of
16 this section, the Department of Environmental Protection shall:

17 (1) consult with persons and organizations that have knowledge
18 and experience in assisting individuals with intellectual or
19 developmental disabilities. The Department of Human Services shall
20 establish a process by which such persons and organizations will be
21 informed of their ability to provide input and recommendations in
22 association with the development of beach accessibility guidelines
23 under this section; and

24 (2) consider, as appropriate, the guidelines for beach access routes
25 and facilities on federal lands, which have been adopted by the United
26 States Access Board.

27 c. Upon adoption of the guidelines pursuant to subsection a. of
28 this section, the Department of Environmental Protection shall publish
29 the guidelines on its Internet website, and distribute the guidelines to
30 every county and municipality with publicly-owned beach or
31 waterfront property.

32 d. The Department of Environmental Protection shall design a
33 uniform promotional label or sign that may be displayed by a county
34 or local government at any beach that complies with the guidelines
35 adopted pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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42 This bill would require the Department of Environmental
43 Protection (DEP), in consultation with the Department of Human
44 Services (DHS), to develop guidelines for specific facilities and
45 accommodations necessary to provide accessibility to beaches for
46 persons with disabilities. The guidelines would be required to
47 include recommendations for ramps, restrooms, showers,
48 boardwalks, surf chairs, parking, and any other facilities deemed

1 appropriate. The bill requires the DEP, when developing the
2 guidelines, to consult with any persons or organizations with
3 knowledge and experience in assisting individuals with intellectual
4 or developmental disabilities. The bill requires the DHS to
5 establish a process by which such persons and organizations will be
6 informed of their ability to provide input and recommendations in
7 association with the development of beach accessibility guidelines.
8 The DEP is also required to consider, as appropriate, the guidelines
9 for beach access routes and facilities on federal lands adopted by
10 the United States Access Board. The bill requires the DEP to
11 publish the guidelines on its Internet website and to distribute the
12 guidelines to every county and municipality with publicly-owned
13 beach or waterfront property.

14 This bill also requires the DEP to design a uniform label or sign
15 that may be displayed by a county or local government at any beach
16 that complies with the accessibility guidelines developed under the
17 bill.