

ASSEMBLY, No. 5479

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

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District 18 (Middlesex)

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie and Lampitt

SYNOPSIS

Requires each solid waste management district to develop strategy in solid waste management plan to reduce food waste.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing
2 P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.).

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. No later than two years after the effective date of this
8 section, each solid waste management district in the State shall
9 develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2030,
10 the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at
11 least 50 percent of the amount which is generated in the year this
12 section takes effect. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment
13 to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the
14 “Solid Waste Management Act,” P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.)
15 and subject to the approval of the department.

16 b. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section,
17 the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a
18 list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order
19 to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in
20 subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need
21 not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus
22 edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste,
23 composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste, and public
24 awareness campaigns.

25 c. As used in this section, “food waste” means food processing
26 waste, food processing residue generated from processing and
27 packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from
28 food, food product over-runs, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and
29 used cooking fats, oil, and grease.

30
31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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34 STATEMENT

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36 This bill would require each county to develop, as part of its
37 district solid waste management plan, a strategy to reduce food
38 waste in the district.

39 According to the United States Department of Agriculture
40 (USDA), approximately 40 percent of the United States food supply
41 goes uneaten each year due to losses at the farm, retail, and
42 consumer levels. The vast majority of this food waste ends up in
43 landfills, where it takes up valuable landfill space and emits
44 methane, a potent greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.
45 At the same time, over 14 percent of United States households
46 struggle to put enough food on the table, leaving 49 million
47 Americans, including 16 million children, at risk of going hungry.

1 It is estimated that the food saved by reducing losses by just 15
2 percent could feed more than 25 million Americans each year.

3 In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the
4 USDA announced a national goal of reducing food waste by 50
5 percent by the year 2030. In 2017, the New Jersey State Legislature
6 passed P.L.2017, c.136 (C.13:1E-226), which established a similar
7 goal for the State. To meet that ambitious goal, this bill would
8 require each solid waste management district in the State (i.e., each
9 county and the Hackensack Meadowlands District) to develop and
10 implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2030, the amount of
11 food waste generated annually in the district by at least 50 percent
12 of the amount which is generated in the year this section takes
13 effect. The strategy would be adopted as an amendment to each
14 district's solid waste management plan and subject to the approval
15 of the department.

16 The bill would require the Department of Environmental
17 protection to develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of
18 measures solid waste management districts can take in order to
19 achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in the bill.
20 These measures would include actions to prevent food waste and
21 increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation
22 and recycling of food waste, composting and anaerobic digestion of
23 food waste, and public awareness campaigns.