

ASSEMBLY, No. 5799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

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District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DEP to prepare report on confined aquifers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring the DEP to prepare a report on confined aquifers
2 in the State.

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

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7 1. a. No later than one year after the effective date of this act,
8 the Department of Environmental Protection shall prepare a report
9 on the recharge areas of confined aquifers in the State.

10 b. The report shall:

11 (1) include a map that shows, as accurately as is practicable, the
12 three-dimensional extent of all major confined aquifers in the State;

13 (2) include a map that shows the recharge areas of all major
14 confined aquifers in the State;

15 (3) provide an analysis of the watershed characteristics,
16 geology, and land use of each recharge area, which analysis
17 indicates what proportion of each recharge area is developed and
18 undeveloped;

19 (4) provide an analysis of the feasibility of preserving as open
20 space an increased amount of each recharge area;

21 (5) provide an analysis of the feasibility of artificially
22 recharging each confined aquifer;

23 (6) provide recommendations for State laws and municipal
24 ordinances to increase the quantity and quality of water that
25 recharges each confined aquifer; and

26 (7) provide recommendations for State and municipal initiatives,
27 including public awareness campaigns, to increase the quantity and
28 quality of water that recharges each confined aquifer.

29 c. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall submit
30 the report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
31 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire after
34 the transmittal of the report required by subsection c. of section 1 of
35 this act.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill would require the Department of Environmental
41 Protection to prepare a report on the recharge areas of confined
42 aquifers in the State. Confined aquifers are underground volumes
43 of water that have impermeable layers of rock or soil above and
44 below the water, causing it to be naturally pressurized. Ground
45 water can still flow into confined aquifers; however, it often flows
46 in from a distant area upslope of the main aquifer, known as the
47 "recharge area."

1 The report would: (1) include a map that shows, as far as is
2 practicable, the three-dimensional extent of all major confined
3 aquifers in the State; (2) include a map that shows the recharge
4 areas of all major confined aquifers in the State; (3) provide an
5 analysis of the watershed characteristics, geology, and land use of
6 each recharge area, indicating what proportion of each recharge
7 area is developed versus undeveloped; (4) provide an analysis of the
8 feasibility of preserving as open space an increased amount of each
9 recharge area; (5) provide an analysis of the feasibility of
10 artificially recharging each confined aquifer; (6) provide
11 recommendations for State laws and municipal ordinances to
12 increase the quantity and quality of water that recharges each
13 confined aquifer; and (7) provide recommendations for State and
14 municipal initiatives, including public awareness campaigns, to
15 increase the quantity and quality of water that recharges each
16 confined aquifer.