

SENATE, No. 3044

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Permits transfer of escheated civil forfeiture funds from Unclaimed Personal Property Trust Fund to General Fund for appropriation to Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 A SUPPLEMENT to the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations act,
2 P.L.2019, c.150.

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

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7 1. The following language provision is added to the General
8 Provisions of P.L.2019, c.150, the annual State appropriations act
9 for Fiscal Year 2020, as amended and supplemented by
10 P.L.2020, c.43:

11 105. Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the
12 contrary, in addition to any other amounts transferred from the
13 Unclaimed Personal Property Trust Fund to the General Fund and
14 appropriated herein, there is appropriated from the Unclaimed
15 Personal Property Trust Fund for transfer to the General Fund, an
16 amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 comprising unclaimed assets
17 seized by the County of Essex prior to January 1, 2017 pursuant to
18 N.J.S.2C:64-1 et seq., and deposited in the Unclaimed Personal
19 Property Trust Fund on or after July 1, 2020, which amount is
20 appropriated subject to the approval of the Director of the Division
21 of Budget and Accounting to the Office of the Essex County
22 Prosecutor for law enforcement purposes including, but not limited
23 to, the implementation of a county-wide police body-worn camera
24 and video storage program.

25
26 2. Section 105 of P.L.2019, c.150 is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 **[105.]** 106. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.
29 (cf: P.L.2020, c.43, s.9)

30
31 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill supplements P.L.2019, c.105, the Fiscal Year 2020
37 annual State appropriations act, to add a General Provision
38 transferring unclaimed assets totaling \$2.4 million from the
39 Unclaimed Personal Property Trust Fund to the General Fund for
40 appropriation to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. The
41 proposed General Provision requires the transferred funds for law
42 enforcement costs, including, but not limited to, the funding of a
43 county-wide police body-worn camera and video storage program.

44 The bill transfers assets seized by the County of Essex pursuant
45 to the State's civil forfeiture laws (N.J.S.2C:64-1 et seq.). These

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 assets were held by the Essex County Prosecutor for three years
2 following their seizure and escheated to the State's Unclaimed
3 Personal Property Trust Fund, in accordance with standard
4 operating procedures issued by the Attorney General regarding
5 forfeiture program administration.

6 The unclaimed assets authorized for transfer under the bill were
7 seized by the County of Essex prior to January 1, 2017 and
8 escheated to the Unclaimed Personal Property Trust Fund on or
9 after July 1, 2020.