

SENATE, No. 3049

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes regional municipal court pilot program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning municipal courts, and supplementing Title 2B
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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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. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall establish a
8 regional municipal court pilot program in no fewer than three
9 counties and no fewer than five municipalities in each county. The
10 Administrative Director of the Courts in consultation with the
11 assignment judges shall select appropriate counties and
12 municipalities for the implementation of the program.

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14 2. A regional municipal court shall have jurisdiction over all
15 matters falling within the jurisdiction of the municipal courts in the
16 pilot program. All complaints issued in the county by the State
17 Police or any statewide law enforcement agency, or by any county
18 law enforcement agency, any county code enforcement entity, or by
19 any other non-municipal law enforcement agency, shall also fall
20 within the jurisdiction of the regional municipal court, consistent
21 with the provisions of N.J.S.2B:12-17 and N.J.S.2B:12-18.

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23 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fines and
24 costs collected by the regional municipal court shall be retained by
25 the regional municipal court on a pro rata basis equal to the costs
26 associated with management, administration, operation, judge and
27 staff salaries, and technology for the regional municipal court. The
28 remainder of the fines and costs collected by the regional municipal
29 court shall be distributed in accordance with N.J.S.22A:3-4,
30 R.S.39:5-40, R.S.39:5-41, and subsection c. of section 3 of
31 P.L.1979, c.396 (C.2C:46-4).

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33 4. Judicial appointments to the regional municipal court shall
34 be made in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, Section
35 VI, paragraph 1 of the State Constitution. The assignment judge of
36 the vicinage shall have the authority to make a temporary
37 appointment in the event of a vacancy.

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39 5. The regional municipal court pilot programs shall begin
40 hearing cases one year following enactment.

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42 6. This act shall take effect 180 days after enactment except the
43 Administrative Director of the Courts may take any anticipatory
44 action in advance as the director deems necessary for the
45 implementation of the pilot program.

STATEMENT

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This bill creates a pilot program to establish regional municipal courts by consolidating certain municipal courts.

The pilot program would be established in no fewer than three counties and no fewer than five municipalities in each county. The selection of the appropriate counties and municipalities for the pilot program would be made by the Administrative Director of the Courts in consultation with the assignment judges.

A regional municipal court would have jurisdiction over all matters falling within the jurisdiction of the municipal courts that are part of the pilot program. All complaints issued in the county by the State Police or any statewide law enforcement agency, or by any county law enforcement agency, any county code enforcement entity, or by any other non-municipal law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction of the municipal courts would fall in the jurisdiction of the regional municipal courts.

The nomination and appointment of judges of a regional municipal court would be done in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, Section VI, paragraph 1 of the State Constitution. That paragraph provides that the Governor nominates and appoints these municipal judges with the advice and consent of the Senate. The assignment judge of the vicinage would have the authority to make a temporary appointment in the event of a vacancy.

All fees, fines, charges, and costs collected by the regional municipal court would be the same as currently provided by law for municipal courts. The regional municipal court shall retain these monies on a pro rata basis equal to the costs incurred.