

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3049**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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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 reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 13, 2021, with amendments.



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

3

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

6

7 1. <sup>1</sup>a.<sup>1</sup> The Administrative Office of the Courts shall establish  
8 a 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.

13 <sup>1</sup>b. Any county that has considered municipal court  
14 consolidation on a county-wide basis prior to the enactment of  
15 P.L. c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) may  
16 submit that information to the Administrative Director of the Courts  
17 and that county shall be included in the pilot program.

18 c. The population and population density figures set forth in  
19 subsection e. of N.J.S. 2B:12-1 shall not apply to any regional  
20 municipal court in any county participating in this pilot program,  
21 including any county included pursuant to subsection b. of this  
22 section.<sup>1</sup>

23

24 2. A regional municipal court shall have jurisdiction over all  
25 matters falling within the jurisdiction of the municipal courts in the  
26 pilot program. All complaints issued in the county by the State  
27 Police or any statewide law enforcement agency, or by any county  
28 law enforcement agency, any county code enforcement entity, or by  
29 any other non-municipal law enforcement agency, shall also fall  
30 within the jurisdiction of the regional municipal court, consistent  
31 with the provisions of N.J.S.2B:12-17 and N.J.S.2B:12-18.

32

33 3. <sup>1</sup>a.<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fines  
34 and costs collected by the regional municipal court shall be retained  
35 by the regional municipal court on a pro rata basis equal to the costs  
36 associated with management, administration, operation, judge and  
37 staff salaries, and technology for the regional municipal court. The  
38 remainder of the fines and costs collected by the regional municipal  
39 court shall be distributed in accordance with N.J.S.22A:3-4,  
40 R.S.39:5-40, R.S.39:5-41, and subsection c. of section 3 of  
41 P.L.1979, c.396 (C.2C:46-4).

42 <sup>1</sup>b. A county participating in the pilot program may consider  
43 determining budgets for participating municipalities in that county  
44 by way of an assessment based on each participating municipality's

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SJU committee amendments adopted May 13, 2021.

1 equalized value as determined by the appropriate county board of  
2 taxation.<sup>1</sup>

3

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

9

10 5. <sup>1</sup>**【The】** Any regional municipal court established in a county  
11 that is included in the pilot program pursuant to subsection b. of  
12 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
13 this bill), because that county considered municipal court  
14 consolidation on a county-wide basis prior to the enactment of  
15 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
16 and submitted information on that previous consideration to the  
17 Administrative Director of the Courts, shall begin hearing cases no  
18 later than January 1, 2022, and any<sup>1</sup> regional municipal court<sup>1</sup> in  
19 any other county selected by the Administrative Director of the  
20 Courts for the<sup>1</sup> pilot<sup>1</sup> **【programs】** program<sup>1</sup> shall begin hearing  
21 cases no later than<sup>1</sup> one year following enactment.

22

23 6. This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup>**【180】** 60<sup>1</sup> days after enactment  
24 except the Administrative Director of the Courts may take any  
25 anticipatory action in advance as the director deems necessary for  
26 the implementation of the pilot program.