

SENATE, No. 4135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DEP to provide public access for boats to certain State-owned lakes; appropriates \$1 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning public boating access to certain State-owned
2 lakes, supplementing P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.), and
3 making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. a. Within two years after the date of enactment of this act,
9 the Department of Environmental Protection shall construct, cause
10 to be constructed, or enter into long-term contracts pursuant to a
11 public bidding process with the owners of private marinas to
12 provide for, public boat access to any State-owned lake at which
13 boats with or without onboard motors are allowed.

14 b. If the department is unable to construct, or cause to be
15 constructed, public boat access to any State-owned lake at which
16 boats with or without onboard motors are allowed, the
17 commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to
18 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature
19 identifying the lakes at which public boat access is unable to be
20 provided and the reasons therefor. If the reason is due to a lack of
21 sufficient funds for the purpose, the report shall detail the necessary
22 funding required.

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24 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
25 Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$1 million for
26 the purposes of subsection a. of section 1 of this act.

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28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill would require the Department of Environmental
34 Protection (DEP) to construct, cause to be constructed, or enter into
35 long-term contracts with the owners of private marinas to provide
36 for, public boat access to any State-owned lake at which boats with
37 or without onboard motors are allowed. Any contract entered into
38 with an owner of a private marina would be subject to a public
39 bidding process.

40 The bill would appropriate \$1 million from the General Fund to
41 the DEP in order to provide for the public boat access required by
42 the bill.

43 The bill is intended to ensure the public has boat access to any
44 State-owned lake on which boats are allowed. Greenwood Lake is
45 one example where a public boat launch is needed in order to ensure
46 that the public is able to enjoy the same access to the lake as private
47 property owners adjacent to the lake and members of private
48 marinas located on the lake. Currently, there is no public boat

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1 launch in either New Jersey or New York. Private marina owners
2 have previously allowed day-use access to their privately-owned
3 boat ramps for a fee. However, as marinas on the lake have surged
4 in popularity and there has been an increase in demand for access,
5 particularly seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, these private
6 marinas are operating at capacity and have either limited or
7 eliminated public day-use access. Thus, members of the public are
8 denied boating access to the lake.