

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4767

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4767.

This bill exempts members of the State Board of Agriculture and county agriculture development boards (CADBs) from personal liability and also allows these boards to hire private counsel or outside consultants.

Specifically, this bill provides that members of the State Board of Agriculture or a CADB would not be liable in an action for damages to any person for any action taken or recommendation made within the scope of their duties as a member, if the action or recommendation was taken or made without malice. The members of these boards would be indemnified and their defense of any action would be provided for in the same manner and to the same extent as public employees under the “New Jersey Tort Claims Act,” N.J.S.59:1-1 et seq., with respect to actions or omissions in the scope of their employment.

In addition, the bill provides that the State Board of Agriculture and CADBs may request assistance from private counsel or outside consultants, selected in accordance with applicable State law, in order to conduct any duties and responsibilities of the board that are of a nature beyond the scope of the expertise of the members of the respective board.