

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 5554

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2023

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5554.

This bill, as amended by the committee, would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to undertake a study of methane emissions in the State, beginning no later than 30 days after the bill's enactment.

The study would be required to include an evaluation of:

- (1) the quantity of methane emitted in the State;
- (2) the sources of methane emissions;
- (3) the efficiency of flares that are in operation in the State at converting methane into other substances;
- (4) measures that could be taken to reduce methane emissions resulting from solid waste, agriculture, natural gas transmission and distribution, petroleum refineries, and any other sources deemed appropriate by the department; and
- (5) recommendations for legislative and regulatory actions to reduce methane emissions in the State.

The bill would require the DEP to engage with relevant stakeholders and members of the public in carrying out the study. No later than one year after the bill's enactment, the bill would require the DEP to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature that contains the study's findings.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

- (1) add natural gas third party suppliers to the list of entities with which the DEP is to consult during the course of the study; and
- (2) correct a citation to current law.