

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5675

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2023

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5675.

This bill establishes a “Boardwalk Preservation Fund” (fund) in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for the purpose of providing matching grants to counties and municipalities in amounts equal to reasonable and necessary county and municipal expenditures or contributions concerning boardwalk construction, maintenance, reconstruction, and repair projects. The fund is to be administered by the DCA through the Division of Housing and Community Resources (division).

The DCA is to develop an application process and promulgate criteria for a county or municipality, individually or jointly, to qualify for a matching grant. This information is to be disseminated to coastal counties and municipalities in a form and manner to be determined by the DCA. The division is to accept and review applications submitted by a counties and municipalities and determine whether the application has met the criteria established by the DCA to qualify for a matching grant pursuant to the bill.

The division is to approve in advance any projects proposed to be funded with matching grants and enter into an agreement with the county or municipality, individually or jointly, and as negotiated by the division, for the expenditure or allocation of matching grant funds and for reporting on expenditures and project outcomes. The award of matching grants pursuant to the bill is to be conditioned upon compliance with the provisions of an agreement approved pursuant to the bill, and as determined by the division. The division is to award matching grants based on criteria established by the DCA.

This bill appropriates \$100 million from the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021,” Pub.L.177-2, for the administration of the “Boardwalk Preservation Fund” and the award of matching grant funding pursuant to the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.