

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2883

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 2023

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2883.

This bill requires the board of county commissioners of each county within the State that does not currently have a county mosquito control commission to establish a county mosquito control commission and appoint members pursuant to R.S.26:9-14 et seq, no later than one year after the bill's effective date. Currently, there are four counties within the State that have mosquito control commissions: Camden County; Middlesex County; Ocean County; and Warren County. This bill would require all other counties within the State to establish a mosquito control commission.

The bill also expands the authorized use of State aid appropriations for mosquito extermination and control to include airplane spraying for mosquito extermination in all State counties. The bill removes the current restriction that authorizes the use of State aid appropriations for airplane spraying for mosquito extermination only in counties bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

The bill also requires each county mosquito control commission to submit, on or before the first of November in each year, a report to the State Mosquito Control Commission (State commission), the Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (director), and to the board of county commissioners of the county, concerning the commission's mosquito control activities during the previous year. The report would be required to include certain information enumerated in the bill.

The bill requires, no later than two years after the bill's effective date, the State commission, in consultation with the director, to establish mosquito control guidelines to assist county mosquito control commissions in mosquito control and extermination activities. In developing the guidelines, the State commission is to be required to utilize the reports submitted by the county mosquito control commissions pursuant to the bill. The guidelines established pursuant to the bill are required to be published on the Internet website of the State commission and updated annually to reflect new mosquito control research, best practices, and the information received in the annual reports submitted to the State commission by county mosquito control commissions.

This bill also amends current law to replace the name “county mosquito extermination commission” with “county mosquito control commission.” Further, the bill amends various sections of law related to State and county mosquito control commissions to remove references to the terms “board of chosen freeholders” and “chosen freeholder” and replace the terms with “board of county commissioners” and “county commissioner,” respectively, as required pursuant to State law.

Finally, the bill would repeal P.L.1948, c.383 (C.26:9-13.1), which referred to the term of office of original county mosquito extermination commission members at the time the law took effect in 1948.