

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3154

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 3154.

This bill would exempt community gardens that operate an on-site composting system from any permits required by the Department of Environmental Protection under the "Solid Waste Management Act," P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.), the "New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act," P.L.1987, c.102 (C.13:1E-99.11 et al.), the "Air Pollution Control Act (1954)," P.L.1954, c.212 (C.26:2C-1 et seq.), or the "Water Pollution Control Act," P.L.1977, c.74 (C.58:10A-1 et seq.), or any rules or regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

To be eligible for the exemption provided by the bill: (1) the property may only be used as a community garden; (2) the composting system may only use vegetative waste generated by the community garden; and (3) all compost generated from the composting system is required to be used on-site exclusively for the community garden. As defined in the bill, "community garden" means any publicly or privately owned piece of land maintained and cultivated as a garden by members of the surrounding community.