

ASSEMBLY, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

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SYNOPSIS

Requires State Office of Emergency Management to establish hyperlocal text alert system for flood and severe weather conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/2026)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the establishment of a flood and severe weather
2 text alert system and supplementing Title 58 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. public weather alerts can be one of the most effective tools in
10 ensuring emergency preparedness;

11 b. the rapid dissemination of information, including a
12 description of local weather and flood hazards, hazard severity, and
13 evacuation protocols, to the citizens of the affected community and
14 region is critical in protecting the public;

15 c. the most effective and modernized method of immediately
16 notifying the public of a weather or flood hazard is through text
17 messaging; and

18 d. given the successes that other states and regions have
19 experienced using text messaging to quickly alert the public of
20 weather hazards, it is in the interest of the safety, health, and
21 general welfare of the people of the State that Legislative action be
22 taken to empower the State Office of Emergency Management to
23 establish a text alert program for New Jersey.

24
25 2. As used in this act:

26 “Mobile electronic communications device” means any mobile
27 device capable of text messaging and includes, but is not limited to,
28 a cellular telephone, wireless tablet, watch, or other device with
29 Internet capability, or other wireless communication device.

30 “Severe weather conditions” means a weather related flood,
31 hurricane, nor'easter, tornado, high water, wind-driven water, tidal
32 wave, or other weather-related catastrophe which is of sufficient
33 severity and magnitude to substantially endanger the health, safety,
34 and property of the residents of this State.

35 “Text messaging” means the wireless transmission of text,
36 images or a combination of text and images by means of a cellular
37 telephone, a paging or message service, a personal digital assistant,
38 or any other mobile electronic communications device.

39
40 3. a. The State Office of Emergency Management shall
41 develop and implement a Statewide hyperlocal flood alert system
42 which shall act as a mechanism for the rapid dissemination of
43 information regarding flood events and severe weather conditions to
44 community members. The program shall be a cooperative effort
45 between State and local law enforcement agencies and the media,
46 and shall be a voluntary service provided to residents. In
47 implementing the program, the State Office of Emergency
48 Management shall consult with the Department of Environmental

1 Protection to determine each county's degree of vulnerability to
2 infrastructure damage as a result of flood or severe weather
3 conditions.

4 b. The alert system shall:

5 (1) prioritize text messaging as its primary method of
6 communication; and

7 (2) provide that persons may register any mobile electronic
8 communications device with the State Office of Emergency
9 Management to receive the alerts.

10 c. The flood alert system shall integrate real-time reports from
11 counties, municipalities, and local governments and shall include
12 data from:

13 (1) flood sensors;

14 (2) river height monitoring devices;

15 (3) localized emergency warning systems;

16 (4) stormwater management sensors;

17 (5) radar and satellite images;

18 (6) the National Weather Service;

19 (7) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

20 (8) meteorological sensor data;

21 (9) the Federal Emergency Management System; and

22 (10) any other data or data source that the State Office of
23 Emergency Management determines to be necessary to ensure the
24 safety of State residents during flood or severe weather conditions.
25

26 4. a. Alerts broadcast to State residents pursuant to the
27 Statewide hyperlocal flood alert system established pursuant to
28 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
29 as this bill) shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

30 (1) current rainfall and precipitation levels;

31 (2) local river levels;

32 (3) total water level rise;

33 (4) storm surge;

34 (5) drainage complaints;

35 (6) reported flood damage;

36 (7) a description of the location and severity of flood incidents in
37 exceedance of one foot of total water or sea level rise;

38 (8) forecasted threat details, storm arrival and end times, peak
39 impact timing, intensity, and storm hazards;

40 (9) National Weather Service watches and warnings, including
41 lightning strikes, hail reports, flood warnings, tornado warnings,
42 extreme thunderstorm warnings, tsunami warnings, weather
43 advisories, or security notices; and

44 (10) Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public
45 Alert and Warning System notifications.

46 b. The alerts shall provide sufficient information and
47 environmental context to guide a safe community response to a

1 flood or severe weather incident, including, when necessary, nearby
2 evacuation routes and instructions.

3

4 5. The Director of the State Office of Emergency Management
5 shall, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
6 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1), adopt rules and regulations to
7 effectuate the purposes of this act.

8

9 6. This act shall take effect immediately.