

ASSEMBLY, No. 3583

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 4, 2016

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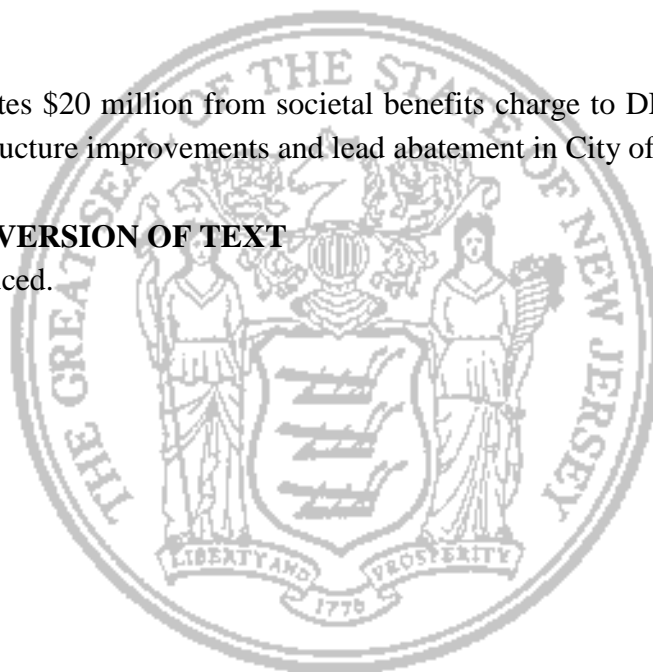
Assemblymen Giblin and Caputo

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$20 million from societal benefits charge to DEP for drinking water infrastructure improvements and lead abatement in City of Newark.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning lead in drinking water and making an
2 appropriation.

3

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

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7 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) of
8 subsection a. of section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60), and any
9 other law to the contrary, there is appropriated the sum of
10 \$20,000,000 from the societal benefits charge collected pursuant to
11 section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60) to the Department of
12 Environmental Protection to provide funding to the City of Newark,
13 Essex County, to make improvements to the water supply
14 infrastructure to address elevated levels of lead found in drinking
15 water in the city.

16

17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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22 The bill would appropriate \$20 million from the societal benefits
23 charge (commonly referred to as the “Clean Energy Fund”) to the
24 Department of Environmental Protection to provide funding to the
25 City of Newark, Essex County, to make improvements to the water
26 supply infrastructure in order to address elevated levels of lead
27 found in the drinking water.

28

29 This bill would provide critical funding to help solve one of the
30 most important environmental problems facing the State, i.e., the
31 decay of critical infrastructure that provides drinking water in order
32 to protect the health and welfare of the State, its citizens, especially
33 children, and the environment. Aging infrastructure and the
34 deterioration of the physical assets of drinking water supply
35 systems present serious risks to the integrity of drinking water and
36 to the health and welfare of the citizens of the State. News reports
37 earlier this year concerning the health crisis related to lead-
38 contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, and more recently, the
39 Department of Environmental Protection advising the Newark
40 Public Schools system to temporarily utilize alternate water sources
41 in 30 district school buildings after recent testing found elevated
42 levels of lead at various water taps, point to the immediate need to
43 address lead abatement in our drinking water in order to protect the
44 public health.

44

45 Lead in drinking water comes from lead soldering, lead pipes,
46 and leaded brass faucets. Too much lead in the human body can
47 damage the nervous system, brain, and kidneys. Young children are
at the greatest risk of toxic effects of lead.