

ASSEMBLY, No. 391

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman EDWARD H. THOMSON

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Ethanol Study Commission."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the "Ethanol Study Commission."

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is created, within the Department of Environmental
7 Protection, the "Ethanol Study Commission."

8 b. The study commission shall consist of five members, to be
9 appointed as follows:

10 (1) one member to be appointed by the Governor;

11 (2) two members of the Senate, of whom one shall be appointed
12 by the President of the Senate and one shall be appointed by the
13 Minority Leader of the Senate; and

14 (3) two members of the General Assembly, of whom one shall
15 be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one shall
16 to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

17 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
18 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

19 d. Members of the commission shall be appointed within 30
20 days after the effective date of this act, and shall hold their initial
21 organizational meeting as soon as practicable, but no later than 30
22 days following appointment of a majority of its authorized
23 membership. At the initial organizational meeting, the members
24 shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the
25 members of the study commission by a majority vote of the
26 members present.

27 e. Members of the study commission shall serve without
28 compensation.

29 f. A majority of all the authorized members of the study
30 commission shall constitute a quorum, and no action of the study
31 commission shall be taken without the affirmative vote of a
32 majority of all the authorized members of the study commission,
33 except for the election of the chairperson and vice-chairperson at
34 the initial organizational meeting pursuant to subsection d. of this
35 section.

36 g. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide
37 primary staff support to the study commission.

38

39 2. a. The purpose of the Ethanol Study Commission shall be to
40 determine (1) the necessity of ethanol in gasoline and alternatives to
41 ethanol that may be available, and (2) whether New Jersey should
42 and could, through legal action or legislative means, prohibit
43 ethanol in gasoline in the State.

44 b. The study commission shall:

45 (1) determine if the ethanol component of gasoline can be
46 eliminated or reduced while complying with federal ethanol
47 requirements;

1 (2) study and analyze alternatives to ethanol in gasoline that
2 would comply with federal ethanol requirements;

3 (3) identify cost-effective and energy-effective techniques to
4 produce ethanol; and

5 (4) consult with the scientific and academic community for
6 expertise and input concerning paragraphs (1) through (3) of this
7 subsection.

8 c. The study commission shall prepare a final report on its
9 findings, conclusions, and recommendations and shall submit the
10 report to the Governor and to the Legislature in accordance with the
11 requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no
12 later than six months following its organizational meeting.

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14 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
15 30th day after the study commission submits its final report.

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18 STATEMENT

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20 This bill establishes the "Ethanol Study Commission," to consist
21 of five members. Of the total membership, one member would be
22 appointed by the Governor, one member would be appointed by the
23 President of the Senate, one member would be appointed by the
24 Senate Minority Leader, one member would be appointed by the
25 Speaker of the General Assembly, and one member would be
26 appointed by the General Assembly Minority Leader. Members of
27 the study commission would serve without compensation.

28 The purpose of the Ethanol Study Commission would be to
29 determine (1) the necessity of ethanol in gasoline and alternatives to
30 ethanol that may be available, and (2) whether New Jersey should
31 and could, through legal action or legislative means, prohibit
32 ethanol in gasoline in the State. Studies have shown that ethanol
33 decreases gasoline mileage and adds up to 14 cents per gallon to the
34 cost of gasoline.

35 The study commission would:

36 (1) determine if the ethanol component of gasoline can be
37 eliminated or reduced while complying with federal ethanol
38 requirements;

39 (2) study and analyze alternatives to ethanol in gasoline that
40 would comply with federal ethanol requirements;

41 (3) identify cost-effective and energy-effective techniques to
42 produce ethanol; and

43 (4) consult with the scientific and academic community for
44 expertise and input on its work.

45 The bill requires the study commission to prepare a final report
46 on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and submit it to
47 the Governor and the Legislature. The study commission would
48 expire 30 days after submitting its report.