

ASSEMBLY, No. 1447

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Provides funding to Township of Jefferson and Township of West Milford for tourism promotion and development activities at Lake Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake and requires annual appropriations until Fiscal Year 2034; appropriates \$4 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** appropriating monies from the General Fund to the
2 Department of State for tourism promotion and development
3 activities.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. Beginning in fiscal year 2020 and in each fiscal year
9 thereafter prior to fiscal year 2034, there shall be appropriated
10 \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of State. Any
11 amounts appropriated to the Department of State pursuant to this
12 section shall be distributed to the Township of Jefferson (Morris
13 County) and shall be expended exclusively for tourism promotion
14 and development activities at Lake Hopatcong.
15

16 2. Beginning in fiscal year 2020 and in each fiscal year
17 thereafter prior to fiscal year 2034, there shall be appropriated
18 \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of State. Any
19 amounts appropriated to the Department of State pursuant to this
20 section shall be distributed to the Township of West Milford
21 (Passaic County) and shall be expended exclusively for tourism
22 promotion and development activities at Greenwood Lake.
23

24 3. There is appropriated \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to
25 the Department of State for the purposes described in section 1 of
26 this act.
27

28 4. There is appropriated \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to
29 the Department of State for the purposes described in section 2 of
30 this act.
31

32 5. This act shall take effect immediately.
33
34

35 **STATEMENT**
36

37 This bill provides funding from the General Fund to the
38 Department of State for tourism promotion and development
39 activities. A total of \$4,000,000 in shall be appropriated to the
40 Department of State. \$2,000,000 shall be distributed to the
41 Township of Jefferson and shall be expended exclusively for
42 tourism promotion and development activities at Lake Hopatcong.
43 \$2,000,000 shall be distributed to the Township of West Milford
44 and shall be expended exclusively for tourism promotion and
45 development activities at Greenwood Lake.

46 Additionally, this bill requires the State to make annual General
47 Fund appropriations of \$2 million to the Department of State to be
48 distributed to the Township of Jefferson and the Township of West

1 Milford for the aforementioned purposes in each State fiscal year
2 from Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2033.

3 Lake Hopatcong is New Jersey's largest freshwater lake offering
4 residents and visitors boating, sailing, kayaking, swimming, fishing,
5 water sports and more year-round. Greenwood Lake has long been
6 an attractive vacation spot for tourists offering residents and visitors
7 boating, swimming, water skiing, and fishing during the summer
8 months and ice fishing, snowmobiling, and other uses during the
9 winter months.

10 Due to the development restrictions placed on the Township of
11 Jefferson and the Township of West Milford by the "Highlands
12 Water Protection and Planning Act," (P.L.2004, c.120) it is difficult
13 to attract businesses and stimulate economic growth. 88 percent of
14 the Township of Jefferson is within the preservation area of the
15 Highlands region, while the entirety of the Township of West
16 Milford is within the preservation area. Tourism is a large sector of
17 the municipalities' local economies because of Lake Hopatcong and
18 Greenwood Lake. These appropriations will ensure the continuation
19 and growth in the tourism industry at these two lakes.

20 Given the location of State-owned properties in or near the
21 Township of Jefferson and the Township of West Milford, it is also
22 within the State's interests to contribute to the tourism efforts at
23 Lake Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake. Hopatcong State Park, a
24 163 acre park, is located at the southwest corner of Lake
25 Hopatcong. In addition to Lake Hopatcong, Hopatcong State Park
26 offers residents and visitors fishing, canoeing, and access to the
27 Morris Canal. Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, a 2,001 acre forest, is
28 located within the Township of West Milford just off the western
29 portion of Greenwood Lake. Abram S. Hewitt State Forest offers
30 residents and visitors access to the Appalachian Trail, various other
31 hiking trails, and cross-country skiing.