

ASSEMBLY, No. 1549

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT D. CLIFTON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes NJ Historical Commission to establish program to promote developing historic projects on website and collect donations for projects on behalf of historic site or organization.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the New Jersey Historical Commission and
2 historic projects, and amending and supplementing P.L.1999,
3 c.131.

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

7
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1999, c.131 (C.18A:73-22.3) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 3. a. The New Jersey Historical Commission within the
11 Department of State shall establish:

12 (1) A program for the purpose of awarding grants from the fund
13 established pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of this act for
14 general operating support to public or private historical libraries,
15 history museums, historical societies, historic sites, historical
16 agencies of county or local governments, or any related agency or
17 organization; and

18 (2) A program for the purpose of awarding grants from the fund
19 established pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of this act to
20 organizations, entities or individuals in support of research and
21 publication on New Jersey history.

22 b. (1) The commission shall develop guidelines and criteria for
23 each program established pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
24 The guidelines and criteria shall include, but not be limited to:
25 eligibility requirements for applicants; conditions under which
26 applications will be approved; conditions which may be required to
27 be met by approved applicants; forms for applications; application
28 contents; an application acceptance and review process; the manner
29 of awarding of monies to approved applicants; and oversight or
30 accountability for the expenditure of monies awarded to approved
31 applicants. The commission shall establish program guidelines and
32 criteria and advertise the programs in such a way as to develop a
33 pool of applicants that reflects the racial, ethnic, and geographical
34 diversity of the State.

35 (2) The commission shall develop the guidelines and criteria for
36 each program utilizing the definitions set forth in section 2 of this
37 act and in consultation with: Advocates for New Jersey History;
38 New Jersey State Archives; Association of New Jersey County
39 Cultural and Historic Agencies; Division of Parks and Forestry,
40 Department of Environmental Protection; Genealogical Society of
41 New Jersey; Historic Preservation Office, Department of
42 Environmental Protection; League of Historical Societies of New
43 Jersey; Newark Public Library; New Jersey Association of
44 Museums; New Jersey Caucus, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives
45 Conference; New Jersey Council for the Humanities; New Jersey

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 Council for the Social Studies; New Jersey Historic Trust; New
2 Jersey Historical Society; New Jersey Library Association; New
3 Jersey State Library; New Jersey State Museum; New Jersey
4 Studies Academic Alliance; Northern New Jersey Museum Round
5 Table; Preservation New Jersey; and Special Collections and
6 University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries. In addition, the
7 commission shall consult with at least three historians distinguished
8 by their knowledge of New Jersey history and their record of
9 publication in the field in developing the guidelines and criteria for
10 the program established pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection a.
11 of this section.

12 c. (1) All applications received by the commission for grants
13 to be awarded under the programs established pursuant to this
14 section shall be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of reviewers
15 selected by the commission. A separate panel of reviewers shall be
16 selected for each program. The commission shall identify a pool of
17 potential panel reviewers for each program and shall select from
18 that pool the panel for each program to review the applications
19 received for the program. Each panel shall be composed of persons
20 who are experts in the area for which the program provides support.
21 The panel of reviewers for each program shall evaluate each
22 application received for a grant to be awarded under the program
23 and make recommendations to the commission.

24 (2) The commission shall make the final decision on each
25 application received, taking into consideration the recommendations
26 of the panel of reviewers. The commission, may within its
27 discretion, offer an approved applicant an award amount less than
28 the amount requested by the applicant.

29 d. (1) The commission shall inform the public about the
30 programs established pursuant to subsection a. of this section in a
31 manner determined by the commission to result in as wide a
32 dissemination of information as possible within the limits of
33 monies available to the commission for this purpose. The
34 commission may utilize such methods for the dissemination of
35 information as may be available to State agencies for the
36 dissemination of information on other such programs.

37 (2) At the request of the applicant, the commission shall provide
38 advice, in any manner the commission deems appropriate, to
39 interested applicants on the preparation of their applications.

40 e. The New Jersey Historical Commission shall assist any
41 organization, entity, or individual seeking support pursuant to
42 paragraph (2) of subsection a. of this section, in promoting an
43 historic project pursuant to section 3 of P.L. _____,
44 c. (C. _____)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).
45 (cf: P.L.1999, c.131, s.3)
46

47 2. (New section) In addition to the authority set forth pursuant
48 to subsection (d) of N.J.S.18A:73-25, the New Jersey Historical

1 Commission shall accept and administer any gift or grant, donated
2 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
3 Legislature as this bill). Any gift or grant that is not used in
4 accordance with the purposes set forth in section 3 of P.L. ,
5 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be
6 returned to the donor or refused. The Department of the Treasury
7 shall provide the means by which donations may be made to the
8 commission pursuant to this section and section 3 of P.L. ,
9 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

10

11 3. (New section) a. The New Jersey Historical Commission
12 shall establish a program to help historic sites and organizations by
13 periodically announcing and promoting an historic project of an
14 historic site or organization on the commission's Internet website.
15 This program shall be a creative platform to enable historic sites
16 and organizations to gain exposure, generate funding, and leverage
17 donations for their historic projects, through the commission, while
18 historic sites and organizations may retain independence and
19 ownership of the project. No offer of financial returns or equity, or
20 solicitation of loans, shall be made in connection with any historic
21 project.

22 b. The commission shall determine the qualifications necessary
23 to be eligible for inclusion in the program, and evaluate and
24 approve an historic site or organization and its developing project
25 prior to promotion.

26 c. The program website shall provide for any visitor to the
27 website a means to donate to a specific historic site or organization,
28 or historic project. A gift or grant donated for the purposes of this
29 section shall only be accepted by the commission on behalf of the
30 historic site or organization. Any donation to an historic site or
31 organization shall be used at the discretion of the historic site or
32 organization accepting it and any donation to a specific historic
33 project shall be used by the historic site or organization for the
34 designated historic project.

35 d. The commission may request to monitor or oversee the
36 progress of an historic project, as appropriate, and may require an
37 historic site or organization to report progress on occasion. The
38 commission shall not be responsible for ensuring the completion of
39 a project. An historic or organization shall notify the commission,
40 in writing, upon completion of a project.

41 e. The commission may collaborate, consult, or partner with an
42 organization, including an Internet-based organization, that supports
43 creative projects by fundraising and engaging the public at-large, in
44 order to fulfill the mission of the program. The commission may
45 also partner with, or contract for, such an organization to
46 specifically announce or promote an historic site or organization
47 and accept gifts or grants towards any developing project on behalf

1 of the historic site or organization in furtherance of the goals of this
2 act.

3 f. As used in this section, an “historic site or organization”
4 means an “historic site,” “historical society,” “historical library,”
5 “history museum,” or a “related agency or organization,” as are
6 defined pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1999, c.131 (C.18A:73-22.2),
7 and an historical agency of local or county government.

8

9 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill would authorize the New Jersey Historical Commission
15 (“commission”) to establish a program to support New Jersey
16 historic sites and organizations and collect donations for projects on
17 their behalf.

18 Specifically, the commission would establish a program to help
19 historic sites and organizations by announcing and promoting an
20 historic project on the commission’s website. “Historic sites and
21 organizations” include historic sites, historical societies, historical
22 libraries, history museums, historical agencies of local or county
23 government, and related not-for-profit agencies and organizations.

24 This program would be a creative platform to enable historic
25 sites and organizations to gain exposure, generate funding, and
26 leverage donations for their historic projects, through the
27 commission, while retaining independence and ownership of the
28 project. No offer of financial returns or equity, or solicitation of
29 loans, would be made in connection with any historic project.

30 The program website would provide the means for any visitor to
31 the website to donate to a specific historic site or organization, or
32 specific historic project. A gift or grant donated for these purposes
33 would only be accepted by the commission on behalf of an historic
34 site or organization. Any donation to an historic site or
35 organization would be used at the discretion of the historic site or
36 organization accepting it and any donation to a specific historic
37 project would be used by the historic site or organization for the
38 designated historic project. The commission would be authorized to
39 accept and administer gifts or grants to be used only in accordance
40 with the purposes set forth in this bill, or they would be returned to
41 the donor or refused. The Department of the Treasury would
42 provide the means by which donations may be made to the
43 commission.

44 Under the bill, the commission may request to monitor or
45 oversee the progress of an historic project, as appropriate, and may
46 require an historic site or organization to report progress on
47 occasion; however, the commission would not be responsible for
48 ensuring the completion of a project, nor would it investigate an

1 historic site or organizations' ability to complete a project. An
2 historic site or organization would be required to notify the
3 commission, in writing, upon completion of a project.
4 Additionally, this bill would allow the commission to
5 collaborate, consult, or partner with an organization, including an
6 Internet-based organization (for example, a crowdsourcing or
7 advocacy organization such as Kickstarter, Inc.), whose mission is
8 to support creative projects by fundraising and engaging the public
9 at-large. The commission may also partner with or contract for
10 such an organization to specifically announce or promote New
11 Jersey historic sites or organizations and accept gifts or grants
12 towards a developing project on behalf of an historic site or
13 organization in furtherance of the goals of this bill.