

ASSEMBLY, No. 2782

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain State projects to be designed and managed to include sustainable landscapes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/12/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the construction of certain State projects and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

6
7 1. a. Any development project, with or without buildings, on a
8 site of at least 2,000 square feet constructed by, or for the use of, a
9 State governmental entity shall be designed and managed to include
10 a sustainable landscape.

11 b. All plans, specifications, and bid proposal documents for
12 any development project to which the provisions of this section
13 apply shall identify all aspects of the project which relate to the
14 performance measures of the Sustainable SITES Initiative
15 concerning the reduction of water demand, filtering and reduction
16 of stormwater runoff, provision of wildlife habitat, reduction of
17 energy consumption, improvement of air quality, improvement of
18 human health, and increase of outdoor recreation opportunities, as
19 appropriate and applicable to the development project. The
20 Director of the Division of Property Management and Construction
21 in the Department of the Treasury, in cooperation with the New
22 Jersey Building Authority where appropriate, shall enforce the
23 provisions of this section.

24 c. The requirements of this section shall not apply to any
25 development project for which a request for proposals to design the
26 project has been issued prior to the effective date of this section.

27 d. As used in this section:

28 “State governmental entity” means the same as the term is
29 defined in section 1 of P.L.2007, c.269 (C.52:32-5.3).

30 “Sustainable landscape” means a landscape that receives SITES
31 certification in accordance with the Sustainable SITES Initiative,
32 developed through a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort of the
33 American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson
34 Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin, and the
35 United States Botanic Garden, and administered by Green Business
36 Certification, Inc.

37

38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill would require any development project, with or without
44 buildings, on a site of at least 2,000 square feet constructed by, or
45 for the use of, a State governmental entity to be designed and
46 managed to include a sustainable landscape. The Director of the
47 Division of Property Management and Construction in the
48 Department of the Treasury, in cooperation with the New Jersey

1 Building Authority where appropriate, would enforce the provisions
2 of the bill. All plans, specifications, and bid proposal documents
3 for any applicable development project would be required to
4 identify all aspects of the project which relate to the performance
5 measures of the Sustainable SITES Initiative concerning the
6 reduction of water demand, filtering and reduction of stormwater
7 runoff, provision of wildlife habitat, reduction of energy
8 consumption, improvement of air quality, improvement of human
9 health, and increase of outdoor recreation opportunities, as
10 appropriate and applicable to the development project. The
11 requirements of the bill would not to apply to any development
12 project for which a request for proposals to design the project has
13 been issued prior to the enactment of the bill into law.

14 The bill defines “sustainable landscape” as a landscape that is
15 certified in accordance with the Sustainable SITES Initiative,
16 referred to as “SITES,” developed through a collaborative,
17 interdisciplinary effort of the American Society of Landscape
18 Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The
19 University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic
20 Garden, and administered by Green Business Certification, Inc.

21 SITES sets forth performance measures rather than prescribing
22 practices, thus supporting the unique conditions of each
23 development site. SITES certification is based on a point system:
24 the number of points that a project earns determines the certification
25 level it receives. The process is performed through SITES Online,
26 which is a simplified tool designed to collect documentation and
27 track projects from start to finish. The U.S. Green Building Council
28 (USGBC) is a long-time supporter of and stakeholder in the
29 Sustainable SITES Initiative, and certain SITES components are
30 incorporated into the Leadership in Energy and Environmental
31 Design (LEED) green building rating system developed by the
32 USGBC. SITES extends the principles of sustainability beyond the
33 physical building where LEED has been successful to landscapes,
34 including parks, streetscapes, and more. SITES takes a systematic
35 approach to defining, measuring, and elevating the value of
36 landscapes, waterways, and other forms of green infrastructure
37 through sustainable best practices that help create more resilient
38 communities which are better able to withstand and recover from
39 catastrophic events, such as floods and wildfires. As of September
40 2017, more than 100 projects of more than 75.5 million gross
41 square feet of space across 31 states and five countries have
42 registered or certified with SITES.

43 This bill expands upon a provision in current law that requires
44 certain State buildings to be designed to be “high performance
45 green buildings.”