

ASSEMBLY, No. 2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates money from Trenton Capital City Aid to Lake Hopatcong Commission for mitigation and prevention of harmful algal blooms.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 A SUPPLEMENT to “An Act making appropriations for the support
2 of the State Government and the several public purposes for the
3 fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof,” approved June 30, 2019 (P.L.2019, c.150), and
5 amending and supplementing P.L.2000, c.175.

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

9
10 1. The following language provision is added to
11 P.L.2019, c.150, the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2020:
12

22 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

70 Government, Direction, Management, and Control

75 State Subsidies and Financial Aid

STATE AID

13 Of the amount hereinabove appropriated for Trenton Capital City
14 Aid, the amount of \$4,000,000 shall be transferred to the
15 Department of Environmental Protection and allocated to the Lake
16 Hopatcong Commission for the purposes of treating harmful algal
17 blooms in Lake Hopatcong and developing methods and strategies
18 to prevent further harmful algal blooms.

19
20 2. (New section) Beginning in Fiscal Year 2021 and in each
21 fiscal year thereafter, the sum of \$4,000,000 shall be transferred
22 from the Trenton Capital City account to the Lake Hopatcong
23 Commission for the purposes of treating harmful algal blooms in
24 Lake Hopatcong, and developing methods and strategies to prevent
25 further harmful algal blooms.

26 The moneys shall be used to develop and implement methods
27 and strategies for water quality restoration and enhancement which
28 may include, but need not be limited to:

29 (1) assisting municipalities surrounding Lake Hopatcong in
30 developing ordinances, policies, and projects to prevent point and
31 nonpoint source pollution from entering Lake Hopatcong;

32 (2) working with businesses, private individuals, nonprofit
33 organizations, and any other relevant entities near Lake Hopatcong
34 to encourage best land use practices to prevent further harmful algal
35 blooms;

36 (3) coordinating with the Department of Environmental
37 Protection to develop new projects or enhance any existing projects
38 or programs for watershed management, including nonpoint source
39 pollution control; and

40 (4) coordinating with the Natural Resource Conservation
41 Service in the United States Department of Agriculture, and any

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 other relevant federal entity to develop new projects or enhance any
2 existing projects and programs for watershed management,
3 including nonpoint source pollution control.

4
5 3. Section 12 of P.L.2000, c.175 (C.58:4B-12) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 12. a. The “Lake Hopatcong Fund” is established as a
8 nonlapsing, revolving fund in the Department of the Treasury. The
9 fund shall be administered by the Lake Hopatcong Commission,
10 and shall be credited with monies received and dedicated to the
11 fund pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
12 the Legislature as this bill), section 4 of P.L.1995, c.401 (C.12:7-
13 73) and subsection b. of this section, and with any interest or other
14 investment income earned on monies in the fund. Monies in the
15 fund shall be used to carry out the purposes and objectives of
16 P.L.2000, c.175 (C.58:4B-1 et seq.) and section 2 of
17 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) .

18 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule, or regulation to
19 the contrary, any State or federal funds appropriated, allocated, or
20 designated by law, rule, regulation, or otherwise for the protection,
21 preservation, restoration, maintenance, management, or
22 enhancement of Lake Hopatcong shall be deposited in the “Lake
23 Hopatcong Fund” for expenditure in furtherance of the purposes
24 and objectives of P.L.2000, c.175. This section shall not apply to
25 State or federal funds appropriated, allocated, or designated for
26 Lake Hopatcong State Park.

27 (cf: P.L.2017, c.301, s.1)

28
29 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

30
31
32 STATEMENT

33
34 This bill would provide funding to the Lake Hopatcong
35 Commission to address and prevent harmful algal blooms.

36 The bill would provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$4
37 million for fiscal year 2020, and an annual appropriation for these
38 purposes beginning in fiscal year 2021. The methods and strategies
39 for preventing further harmful algal blooms may include, but would
40 need not be limited to: (1) assisting municipalities surrounding
41 Lake Hopatcong in preventing point and nonpoint source pollution
42 from entering Lake Hopatcong; (2) working with businesses,
43 private individuals, nonprofit organizations, and any other relevant
44 entities to encourage best land use practices to prevent further
45 harmful algal blooms; (3) coordinating with the Department of
46 Environmental Protection to develop new projects or enhance any
47 existing projects or programs for watershed management, including
48 nonpoint source pollution control; and (4) coordinating with the

1 Natural Resource Conservation Service in the United States
2 Department of Agriculture, and any other relevant federal entity to
3 develop new projects or enhance any existing projects and programs
4 for watershed management, including nonpoint source pollution
5 control.

6 The bill provides for the supplemental appropriation and the
7 annual appropriations to be made from the Trenton Capital City Aid
8 Program.

9 In the early summer of 2019, the Department of Environmental
10 Protection detected cyanobacteria, a form of harmful algal bloom,
11 in Lake Hopatcong and subsequently advised against making any
12 contact with the water. Exposure to these harmful algal blooms can
13 cause a range of health effects, including rashes, allergy-like
14 reactions, flu-like symptoms, gastroenteritis, respiratory irritation,
15 skin rashes and eye irritation. A major contributor to harmful algal
16 blooms is excessive nutrient loading in the water caused by runoff
17 into Lake Hopatcong. This bill provides funding to the Lake
18 Hopatcong Commission to address the current harmful algal bloom,
19 and to take steps to prevent further harmful algal blooms from
20 occurring in the future.