

ASSEMBLY, No. 2976

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman JAY WEBBER
District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$4 million from Property Tax Relief Fund to DEP for mitigation and prevention of harmful algal blooms in Greenwood Lake; reduces Trenton Capital City Aid Program appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SUPPLEMENT AND AMENDMENT** to “An Act making
2 appropriations for the support of the State Government and the
3 several public purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020
4 and regulating the disbursement thereof,” approved June 30,
5 2019 (P.L.2019, c.150), supplementing Title 32 of the Revised
6 Statutes, and amending P.L.2019, c.138.

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

10
11 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2019,
12 c.150, there is appropriated from the Property Tax Relief Fund the
13 following sum for the purpose specified:

14 **42 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

40 Community Development and Environmental Management

43 Science and Technical Programs

STATE AID

07-4850 Hazardous Algal Bloom Remediation (PTRF).....	\$4,000,000
Total State Aid Appropriation,	
Hazardous Algal Bloom Remediation (PTRF)	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

State Aid:

05 Greenwood Lake Assistance Program..... (\$4,000,000)

15 There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
16 Protection, to be distributed to the Township of West Milford, for
17 the purposes of treating harmful algal blooms in Greenwood Lake
18 and developing methods and strategies to prevent future harmful
19 algal blooms.

20
21 2. The following items in section 1 of P.L.2019, c.150, the
22 annual State appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2020, are amended
23 to read as follows:

24 **22 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

70 Government Direction, Management, and Control

75 State Subsidies and Financial Aid

STATE AID

04-8030 Local Government Services.....	[\$791,908,000]
	<u>\$787,908,000</u>
(From General Fund.....\$2,192,000)	
(From Property Tax Relief Fund [\$789,716,000] <u>785,716,000</u>)	

Total State Aid Appropriation, State Subsidies,	
Aid.....	[\$791,908,000]
	<u>\$787,908,000</u>

State Aid:

04 Trenton Capital City Aid (PTRF).....**[10,000,000]** (6,000,000)

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 3. (New section) There is established the Greenwood Lake
2 Assistance Program, for which there shall be appropriated from the
3 Property Tax Relief Fund to the Department of Environmental
4 Protection the sum of \$4,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year
5 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter to be distributed to the
6 Township of West Milford. Funds received by the township shall
7 be used exclusively for the purposes of treating harmful algal
8 blooms in Greenwood Lake and developing methods and strategies
9 to prevent future harmful algal blooms. The moneys shall be used
10 to develop and implement methods and strategies for water quality
11 restoration and enhancement which may include, but need not be
12 limited to:

13 (1) developing ordinances, policies, and projects to prevent point
14 and nonpoint source pollution from entering Greenwood Lake;

15 (2) working with businesses, private individuals, nonprofit
16 organizations, and any other relevant entities near Greenwood Lake
17 to encourage best land use practices to prevent future harmful algal
18 blooms;

19 (3) coordinating with the Department of Environmental
20 Protection and the Greenwood Lake Commission to develop and
21 enhance any existing projects or programs for watershed
22 management, including nonpoint source pollution control; and

23 (4) coordinating with the Natural Resource Conservation Service
24 in the United States Department of Agriculture, and any other
25 relevant federal entity to develop and enhance any existing projects
26 and programs for watershed management, including nonpoint
27 source pollution control.

28

29 4. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.138 (C.52:27D-118.44) is amended
30 to read as follows:

31 1. There is established the Trenton Capital City Aid Program,
32 for which there shall be appropriated in each fiscal year an amount
33 not less than **【\$10,000,000】** \$6,000,000 for the City of Trenton.
34 Funds received by the city shall be used solely and exclusively by
35 the city for the purpose of reducing the amount to be raised through
36 the property tax levy for municipal purposes. If in any year the
37 funds dedicated to the city through the Trenton Capital City Aid
38 Program exceed the amount to be raised through the property tax
39 levy for municipal purposes, the remaining balance of the State aid
40 payment shall be allocated in equal amounts to Mercer County and
41 the Trenton School District to be used to reduce the amount of the
42 property tax levies for county and school purposes, notwithstanding
43 the provisions of this section, or of any other law to the contrary.
44 The Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the
45 Department of Community Affairs shall certify annually that the
46 city has complied with the requirements of this section.

47 (cf: P.L.2019, c.138, s.1)

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill would provide funding from the Property Tax Relief
7 Fund to the Township of West Milford, through the Department of
8 Environmental Protection (DEP), to address and prevent harmful
9 algal blooms in Greenwood Lake.

10 The bill would provide for an annual appropriation of \$4 million
11 from the Property Tax Relief Fund to the DEP, to be distributed to
12 the Township of West Milford, for the purposes of treating harmful
13 algal blooms in Greenwood Lake, and developing methods and
14 strategies to prevent future harmful algal blooms. The methods and
15 strategies for preventing future harmful algal blooms may include,
16 but would need not be limited to: (1) developing ordinances,
17 policies, and projects to prevent point and nonpoint source pollution
18 from entering Greenwood Lake; (2) working with businesses,
19 private individuals, nonprofit organizations, and any other relevant
20 entities to encourage best land use practices to prevent future
21 harmful algal blooms; (3) coordinating with the DEP and the
22 Greenwood Lake Commission to develop and enhance any existing
23 projects or programs for watershed management, including
24 nonpoint source pollution control; and (4) coordinating with the
25 Natural Resource Conservation Service in the United States
26 Department of Agriculture, and any other relevant federal entity to
27 develop and enhance any existing projects and programs for
28 watershed management, including nonpoint source pollution
29 control.

30 In addition, the bill would reduce the amount of money devoted
31 to the Trenton Capital City Aid program by \$4 million.

32 In July of 2019, the DEP detected cyanobacteria, a form of
33 harmful algal bloom, in Greenwood Lake and subsequently advised
34 against making any contact with the lake water. Exposure to these
35 harmful algal blooms can cause a range of health effects, including
36 rashes, allergy-like reactions, flu-like symptoms, gastroenteritis,
37 respiratory irritation, skin rashes and eye irritation. A major
38 contributor to harmful algal blooms is excessive nutrient loading in
39 the water caused by runoff into Greenwood Lake. This bill
40 provides funding to the Township of West Milford to take steps to
41 prevent future harmful algal blooms from occurring in the future.