

ASSEMBLY, No. 5409

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP to establish grant program for local governments to support development of community gardens.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a community garden grant program and
2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Environmental Protection, in
8 consultation with the Department of Agriculture, and within the
9 limits of monies appropriated for such purposes, shall establish a
10 program to provide grants to local government units to support the
11 development and maintenance of pollinator friendly community
12 gardens in the State, in order to provide readily available sources of
13 fresh, healthy foods to communities that may lack easy access to
14 affordable fruits and vegetables, and support the State's population
15 of pollinating animals.

16 b. In establishing the grant program pursuant to this section,
17 the department shall:

18 (1) develop guidelines and procedures for the submission of
19 grant applications, and criteria for the evaluation of such
20 applications;

21 (2) establish terms and conditions for the awarding of a grant
22 under this section, and monitor grant recipients' compliance with
23 the terms and conditions;

24 (3) require the local government unit to partner with a nonprofit
25 organization in establishing and maintaining the community garden;

26 (4) require the recipient of a grant to report to the department
27 information relating to its use of grant funds under the program; and

28 (5) submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
29 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature, during each year in
30 which a grant is awarded, on the effectiveness of the grant program
31 in assisting with the development of community gardens for the
32 purposes stated in subsection a. of this section.

33 c. The department may, pursuant to the "Administrative
34 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules
35 and regulations as are necessary to establish and implement the
36 grant program.

37 d. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall
38 include with the annual budget request for the Department of
39 Environmental Protection a request for funds sufficient to carry out
40 the purposes and intent of this act.

41 e. As used in this section:

42 "Community garden" means an area of land upon which
43 individuals have the opportunity to garden on pieces of land that
44 they do not individually own.

45 "Local government unit" means a county, a municipality, or any
46 board, commission, committee, authority, or agency thereof that is
47 subject to the provisions of the "Local Public Contracts Law,"
48 P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.), including a housing authority

1 or redevelopment agency created or continued under the "Local
2 Redevelopment and Housing Law," P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et
3 seq.).

4 "Pollinator friendly garden" means a garden that contains a
5 sufficient proportion of native plants, forbs, or legumes to provide a
6 steady supply of food to pollinating insects or birds.

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8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill would direct the Department of Environmental
14 Protection (DEP) to establish a grant program for local government
15 units to support the development and maintenance of pollinator
16 friendly community gardens in the State, in order to provide readily
17 available sources of fresh, healthy foods to communities that may
18 lack easy access to affordable fruits and vegetables, and support the
19 State's population of pollinating animals. The local government
20 unit would be required to partner with a nonprofit organization in
21 order to develop and maintain the community garden.
22 Implementation of the grant program would be subject to a future
23 appropriation by the Legislature.