

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 149**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman DIANNE C. GOVE

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Assemblyman BRIAN E. RUMPF

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges DEP Commissioner to establish funding formula within Shore Protection Fund for acquisition of certain beach easements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Commissioner of
 2 Environmental Protection to establish a funding formula within
 3 the Shore Protection Fund for the acquisition of beach
 4 easements.

5
 6 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's beaches are a vital recreational resource as
 7 well as a buffer between ocean waves and landward development;
 8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, Shore protection projects and beach replenishment are
 10 necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents of
 11 the State's coastal areas, since healthy beaches act as a buffer
 12 between the pounding surf and the homes, businesses, and
 13 infrastructure along the coast; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Securing federal funding for shore protection projects
 15 requires the acquisition of easements as a condition for completion
 16 of a beach replenishment project, as well as public access; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The cost of beach replenishment and the protection of New
 18 Jersey's coast is a shared responsibility of all the State's residents;
 19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's beaches are a crucial aspect of the State's
 21 tourism economy which generates billions of dollars in revenue
 22 each year; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Current law requires that monies deposited in the "Shore
 24 Protection Fund" be used, in accordance with the priority list
 25 approved by the Legislature pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1997,
 26 c.384 (C.13:19-16.2), for shore protection projects associated with
 27 the protection, stabilization, restoration or maintenance of the shore,
 28 including monitoring studies and land acquisition, consistent with
 29 the current New Jersey Shore Protection Master Plan, and may also
 30 include the nonfederal share of any State-federal project; and

31 **WHEREAS**, A portion of the monies in the Shore Protection Fund were
 32 diverted in the Fiscal Year 2009 State budget from their dedicated
 33 purpose of shore protection to instead help pay for the operation
 34 and maintenance of State parks and forests; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Given the availability of monies in the Shore Protection
 36 Fund to be used for other purposes unrelated to the protection of the
 37 State's coast, it is altogether fitting and proper for the Legislature to
 38 urge the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to take action
 39 to provide funding for the acquisition of beach easements critical to
 40 shore protection projects; now, therefore,

41
 42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
 43 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

44
 45 1. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection is urged to
 46 establish a funding formula within the Shore Protection Fund for
 47 the acquisition of beach easements necessary for the completion of
 48 shore protection projects.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

STATEMENT

9 This resolution urges the Commissioner of Environmental
10 Protection to establish a funding formula within the Shore
11 Protection Fund for the acquisition of beach easements necessary
12 for the completion of shore protection projects.

13 New Jersey's beaches not only provide recreation for beachgoers
14 and fishermen and support a multi-billion dollar tourism industry,
15 but also play a critical role when the State is faced with coastal
16 storms since healthy beaches provide mitigation by acting as a
17 buffer between the pounding surf and the homes, businesses, and
18 infrastructure located along the coast.