

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Constitutes special committee of General Assembly entitled “Assembly Select Committee on New Jersey Transit and the Bound Brook Flood.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** constituting a special committee of the
2 General Assembly entitled the “Assembly Select Committee on
3 New Jersey Transit and the Bound Brook Flood.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, On or about September 1, 2021, the remnants of Hurricane
6 Ida passed over the State of New Jersey, triggering flash flood
7 warnings in various parts of the State; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In the Borough of Bound Brook, a flood control system
9 was installed in recent years with the assistance of the federal
10 government at a cost of approximately \$300 million; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Despite this sophisticated flood control system, which
12 includes thousands of feet of levees and flood walls, pump stations,
13 and three flood gates, the Borough of Bound Brook was overcome
14 with flooding from the storm on or about September 1, 2021; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The reason that the flood control system failed appears to
16 be due to the fact that a New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ
17 Transit) train blocked one of the flood gates, preventing the flood
18 gate from closing; and

19 **WHEREAS**, As a result, the Borough of Bound Brook experienced
20 flooding that caused damage to residences and businesses and
21 otherwise threatened public health and safety; and

22 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore necessary and altogether fitting and
23 proper for the General Assembly, through an appropriate
24 committee, to examine NJ Transit’s role in the failure of the
25 flood control system to work properly and the subsequent
26 flooding of the Borough of Bound Brook; now, therefore,

27
28 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
29 *Jersey:*

30
31 1. There is constituted a special committee of the General
32 Assembly entitled the “Assembly Select Committee on New Jersey
33 Transit and the Bound Brook Flood,” comprised of eight members
34 of the General Assembly. The eight members shall be appointed by
35 the Speaker of the General Assembly, not more than five of whom
36 shall be of the same political party. There shall be a chair and vice-
37 chair of the special committee appointed by the Speaker of the
38 General Assembly from among the members appointed to the
39 committee.

40
41 2. The Assembly Select Committee on New Jersey Transit and
42 the Bound Brook Flood, for the purpose of preventing future
43 failures of the Bound Brook flood control system, may examine all
44 aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the New
45 Jersey Transit Corporation connected to the corporation’s
46 involvement in the flooding in the Borough of Bound Brook and
47 any surrounding areas arising out of the failure of the flood gates in
48 Bound Brook on or about September 1, 2021, and take necessary

1 legislative action to ensure that New Jersey Transit involvement in
2 the Bound Brook flood control system cannot prevent the system
3 from serving its intended flood control purposes in the future.

4
5 3. The Assembly Select Committee on New Jersey Transit and
6 the Bound Brook Flood shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
7 avail itself of the services of the employees of the State of New
8 Jersey, any political subdivision of the State, and any agency
9 thereof, as may be required and as may be available for that
10 purpose, and to employ any other services as may be deemed
11 necessary, in order to perform the duties provided herein, and
12 within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available
13 for that purpose.

14
15 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

16
17
18 STATEMENT

19
20 This resolution establishes a special committee of the General
21 Assembly entitled the “Assembly Select Committee on New Jersey
22 Transit and the Bound Brook Flood” (committee). The committee
23 is authorized, for the purpose of preventing future failures of the
24 Borough of Bound Brook (Bound Brook) flood control system, to
25 examine all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of
26 the New Jersey Transit Corporation (corporation) connected to the
27 corporation’s involvement in the flooding in Bound Brook and any
28 surrounding areas arising out of the failure of the flood gates
29 located in Bound Brook on or about September 1, 2021. The
30 committee is also authorized to take necessary legislative action to
31 ensure future involvement of the corporation in the Bound Brook
32 flood control system will not prevent the system from serving its
33 intended flood control purposes.