

SENATE, No. 1395

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY
District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes NJ Water Supply and Pharmaceutical Product Study Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the New Jersey Water Supply and
2 Pharmaceutical Product Study Commission.

3

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that recent studies have
8 shown measurable quantities of pharmaceutical products, such as
9 antibiotics, hormones, and anti-depressants, in water supplies
10 throughout the country, and that the effects of these substances,
11 individually and in combination, on human health and the
12 environment are unknown.

13 The Legislature further finds and declares that the increasing use
14 of pharmaceuticals, in combination with the lack of information
15 will likely result in increasing quantities of pharmaceuticals in the
16 water supply of the State.

17 The Legislature further finds and declares that there are currently
18 no adequate government guidelines or requirements for the proper
19 detection and management of pharmaceutical products in water
20 supplies, and, therefore, various proposals and systems should be
21 examined to determine if such oversight is necessary, and if so, to
22 determine the best method of pharmaceutical product detection and
23 management.

24 The Legislature further finds and declares that the public health
25 and well-being, as well as public confidence in the water supply,
26 are critical and, therefore, further study and investigation into the
27 potential risks of pharmaceutical products in the water supply is
28 necessary.

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30 2. As used in this act:

31 “Commission” means the New Jersey Water Supply and
32 Pharmaceutical Product Study Commission established pursuant to
33 section 3 of this act.

34 “Department” means the Department of Environmental
35 Protection.

36 “Pharmaceutical product” means any prescription or over-the-
37 counter therapeutic drug including those used for veterinary
38 purposes.

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40 3. There is established the New Jersey Water Supply and
41 Pharmaceutical Product Study Commission. The purpose of the
42 commission shall be to investigate, quantify, and evaluate the
43 potential risks associated with pharmaceutical products in the water
44 supply of the State and to develop recommendations for potential
45 filtering techniques to remove pharmaceutical products from the
46 waste stream.

- 1 a. The commission shall consist of nine voting members, who
2 shall be appointed no later than the 60th day after the effective date
3 of this act, as follows:
- 4 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or a
5 designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- 6 (2) four members of the Senate, of whom two shall be members
7 of the majority party appointed by the President of the Senate and
8 two shall be members of the minority party appointed by the
9 Minority Leader of the Senate; and
- 10 (3) four members of the General Assembly, of whom two shall
11 be members of the majority party appointed by the Speaker of the
12 General Assembly and two shall be members of the minority party
13 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.
- 14 b. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
15 later than the 30th day after the appointment of its members, and
16 shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the
17 members.
- 18 c. The commission shall meet at the call of its chairperson or a
19 majority of its members, and it may hold hearings at the times and
20 in the places it may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its
21 charge.
- 22 d. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for
23 the transaction of commission business. Action may be taken and
24 motions and resolutions adopted by the commission at any meeting
25 thereof by the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of
26 the commission.
- 27 e. Members of the commission shall serve without
28 compensation, but the commission may, within the limits of funds
29 appropriated or otherwise made available to it, reimburse its
30 members for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
31 discharge of their official duties.
- 32 f. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
33 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
34 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, authority, or
35 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
36 purposes, to employ stenographic and clerical assistance, and to
37 incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as may be
38 necessary in order to perform its duties, within the limits of funds
39 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes. The
40 department shall provide staff support to the commission.
- 41 g. The commission shall report its findings and conclusions,
42 together with any recommendations for legislative, administrative,
43 or private sector action, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2
44 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C:52:14-19.1), to the Legislature within two
45 years after the date of its initial meeting. Copies of the report shall
46 also be made available to the public upon request at no charge or
47 for a fee not to exceed the cost of reproduction, and the report shall
48 be posted on the website of the department.

1 h. The commission shall expire on the 120th day after the
2 transmittal of its report to the Governor and the Legislature.

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4 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This bill would establish the New Jersey Water Supply and
10 Pharmaceutical Product Study Commission. Under the bill, the
11 purpose of the commission would be to investigate, quantify, and
12 evaluate the potential risks associated with pharmaceutical products
13 in the State's water supply and to develop recommendations for
14 potential filtering techniques to remove pharmaceutical products
15 from the waste stream.

16 The commission would consist of nine voting members, to be
17 appointed no later than 60 days after the effective date of the bill, as
18 follows:

19 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or a
20 designee, who would serve ex officio;

21 (2) four members of the Senate, of whom two would be
22 members of the majority party appointed by the President of the
23 Senate and two would be members of the minority party appointed
24 by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

25 (3) four members of the General Assembly, of whom two would
26 be members of the majority party appointed by the Speaker of the
27 General Assembly and two would be members of the minority party
28 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

29 The study commission would expire on the 120th day after
30 transmittal of its report to the Governor and the Legislature.