

SENATE, No. 2443

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Eco-Ag Tourism Council.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the New Jersey Eco-Ag Tourism Council and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is established a New Jersey Eco-Ag Tourism Council
8 in, but not of, the Department of State. The council shall consist of 13
9 members, as follows: the Secretary of State, the Secretary of
10 Agriculture, and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or
11 their respective designees, who shall serve ex officio; and 10 public
12 members. Of the public members, six shall be appointed by the
13 Governor, two by the President of the Senate, and two by the Speaker
14 of the General Assembly, as provided in subsection b. of this section.
15 The public members shall include one member from each of five
16 recognized wildlife or nature groups or organizations, and one member
17 from each of five recognized agricultural or horticultural groups or
18 organizations. No more than one member shall be appointed from any
19 particular group or organization.

20 b. The Secretary of State, or the designee thereof, shall serve as
21 chair of the council. The 10 public members shall serve for three-year
22 terms, except the initial appointees shall serve staggered terms of one
23 to three years. Among the initial appointees:

24 (1) the Governor shall appoint (a) one of the members from a
25 wildlife or nature group or organization and one of the members from
26 an agricultural or horticultural group or organization, who shall serve
27 one-year terms, and (b) two of the members from wildlife or nature
28 groups or organizations and two of the members from agricultural or
29 horticultural groups or organizations, who shall serve two-year terms;
30 and

31 (2) the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General
32 Assembly shall each appoint one of the members from a wildlife or
33 nature group or organization and one of the members from an
34 agricultural or horticultural group or organization, all of whom shall
35 serve three-year terms.

36 Each member shall hold office for the term of appointment and
37 until a successor is appointed and qualified.

38 c. Vacancies in the membership of the council shall be filled in
39 the same manner as the original appointments are made and a member
40 may be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies occurring other than by
41 expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.

42 d. The members of the council shall serve without compensation,
43 but may be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses necessarily
44 incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds
45 appropriated or otherwise made available to the council for its
46 purposes.

47 e. The council shall organize no later than 30 days after the
48 appointment of at least the four public members by the Senate

1 President and the Speaker of the General Assembly and shall meet
2 periodically at the call of the chair, but not less than six times in each
3 year. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a
4 quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

5 f. The chair shall appoint an administrator for the council from
6 among the membership, and the Department of Agriculture, the
7 Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of State
8 shall provide the council, equally or as agreed among the ex officio
9 members, with additional administrative staff and support as may be
10 necessary to enable the council to carry out its functions.

11 g. The purpose of the council shall be to examine and develop
12 ecotourism and agricultural tourism opportunities in the State and
13 develop ways for farmers and stewards of natural areas to make use of
14 these opportunities.

15

16 2. One year after the date of the council's organization and first
17 meeting, and annually thereafter, the council shall make
18 recommendations to the Department of Agriculture, the Department
19 of Environmental Protection, and the Department of State
20 concerning tourism initiatives to be implemented. The council shall
21 also report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
22 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on these recommendations
23 and its activities for the preceding year.

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25 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill establishes the New Jersey Eco-Ag Tourism Council, in
31 but not of the Department of State. The council would have 13
32 members, 10 of whom would be public members. Of the public
33 members, six would be appointed by the Governor, two by the
34 Senate President, and two by the Speaker of the General Assembly,
35 and they would be evenly divided between environmental and
36 agricultural groups or organizations. The Secretary of State, the
37 Secretary of Agriculture, and the Commissioner of Environmental
38 Protection, or their designees, would complete the membership and
39 would serve ex officio. The purpose of the council is to examine
40 and develop ecotourism and agricultural tourism opportunities in
41 the State and develop ways for farmers and stewards of natural
42 areas to make use of these opportunities.

43 The bill also directs the council, one year after the date of the
44 council's organization and first meeting, and annually thereafter, to:

45 1) make recommendations to the Department of Agriculture, the
46 Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of
47 State concerning tourism initiatives to be implemented; and

48 2) report to the Governor and the Legislature on these
49 recommendations and its activities for the preceding year.