SENATE, No. 4148

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Sponsored by:
Senator RICHARD J. CODEY
District 27 (Essex and Morris)
Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO
District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates $54.5 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT appropriating $54.5 million from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues for the development of lands by the State for recreation and conservation purposes.

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

1. a. There is appropriated the sum of $54.5 million from dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the "Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund," established pursuant to section 6 of the "Preserve New Jersey Act," P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), to the Department of Environmental Protection for the development of lands by the State for recreation and conservation purposes in accordance with the provisions of the "Preserve New Jersey Act," P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.). Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this paragraph, the sum of $1,833,981 is available due to interest earnings on the dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution.

b. The funds appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be allocated as follows:

Project	**Amount**
BOATING & FISHING ACCESS	
Access Facilities	1,000,000
CAMPING DEVELOPMENT	
Camping, Cabin/Shelter Program	4,000,000
Sanitary Facilities	4,000,000
HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS & ACCESS	
Habitat Improvements & Access	1,000,000
INFRASTRUCTURE	
Bridge Repairs	250,000
Building Repairs and Renovations	4,000,000
Dam Inspections, Repairs, Removals	1,000,000
Health and Life Safety Projects	8,000,000
Historic Structure Stabilization and Repairs	7,500,000
Recreational Development	15,000,000
Road Repairs	2,000,000
IN-HOUSE PROJECTS	500,000
PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK COMMISSION	950,000

OTHER	
Contingency Fund for Repairs	2,670,000
Administration	2,630,000
TOTAL	**$54,500,000**

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48) or any other law to the contrary, the expenditure of funds pursuant to this section shall not require the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor. The department may reallocate funds among the projects identified in subsection b. of this section, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. The department shall send written notification of any such reallocation of funds to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer, the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, and the Chairs of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, or their respective successor committees.

2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the "Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund," established pursuant to section 6 of the "Preserve New Jersey Act," P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), the sum of $54.6 million to implement the provisions of section 1 of this act.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill appropriates the sum of $54.5 million to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide funding for capital projects and park development on lands administered by the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry and Division of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to the "Preserve New Jersey Act," P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

The funding in this bill is provided from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution, approved by the voters of the State in November 2014. The "Preserve New Jersey Act" implements the constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for open space, farmland, and historic preservation. The act provides that a certain amount of the portion of dedicated CBT revenues allocated each year for the Green Acres

program is to be used for: the acquisition of lands for open space, including Blue Acres projects, and development projects on State lands administered by the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry; grants and loans to fund local government open space acquisition and development projects; and grants to nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes. This bill appropriates funds for capital and park development projects on State lands administered by the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry. The "Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund" was established by section 6 of the "Preserve New Jersey Act."

The projects and appropriations listed in this bill have been approved by the DEP and the Garden State Preservation Trust.