

SENATE, No. 4220

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator A.M.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Increases amount of cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues provided to New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to \$10 million; establishes dedicated, non-lapsing Cancer Research Fund.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/6/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer
2 Research, amending P.L.1982, c.40, supplementing P.L.1983,
3 c.6, and repealing section 8 of P.L.1983, c.6.

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

7
8 1. Section 5 of P.L.1982, c.40 (C.54:40A-37.1) is amended as
9 follows:

10 The sum of **[\$1,000,000.00]** \$10,000,000 of the tax collected
11 pursuant to section 301 of P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-8), shall be
12 annually deposited by the State Treasurer in **[a special account to**
13 **be known as]** the Cancer Research Fund, **[except that for Fiscal**
14 **Year 1983 only \$500,000.00 shall be deposited in that account]** a
15 nonlapsing, revolving fund established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.
16 , c... (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Moneys
17 in the Cancer Research Fund shall be **[annually appropriated**
18 **toward the funding of]** utilized by the New Jersey State
19 Commission on Cancer Research, established pursuant to P.L.1983,
20 c.6 (C.52:9U-1 et seq.), **[or to]** for cancer research projects
21 authorized and approved by the commission.
22 (cf: P.L. 1990,c.39,s.18)

23
24 2. Section 8 of P.L.1983, c.6 (C.52:9U-8) is repealed.

25
26 3. (New Section) a. There is established in the Department of
27 the Treasury a nonlapsing, revolving fund to be known as the
28 Cancer Research Fund. This fund shall be the repository for monies
29 provided pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1982, c.40 (C.54:40A-37.1)
30 and any other funds approved by the Department of Health or the
31 commission. Moneys deposited in the fund, and any interest earned
32 thereon, shall be used exclusively for providing grants, as well as
33 contracts, for cancer research projects, authorized and approved by
34 the commission.

35 b. The State Treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund and all
36 disbursements from the fund shall be made by the State Treasurer
37 upon vouchers signed by the chairperson of the commission or the
38 chairperson's designee. The monies in the fund shall be invested
39 and reinvested by the Director of the Division of Investment in the
40 Department of the Treasury in the same manner as other trust funds
41 in the custody of the State Treasurer, in the manner provided by
42 law. Interest received on the monies in the fund shall be credited to
43 the fund.

44
45 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

STATEMENT

This bill increases the amount of cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues provided to the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) to \$10 million. The bill also establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing Cancer Research Fund within the Department of the Treasury. In doing so, the bill prioritizes funding: 1) to expand the NJCCR capacity to fund research regarding the causes, prevention, treatment, and palliation of all cancers and to serve as a resource of information to providers and consumers of cancer care and treatment services; and 2) for cancer research grants that reduce and eliminate disparities among the various racial and ethnic populations within the State's minority and vulnerable communities by increasing access to clinical trials and high-quality cancer care and treatment.

Pursuant to current statute, the NJCCR annually receives \$1 million in cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues. This money is deposited into an existing lapsing Cancer Research Fund and then appropriated to the commission. In recent years, pursuant to the annual appropriations act, this money has been transferred from the Cancer Research Fund to the General Fund. The appropriations act then provides the NJCCR funding via a budget line. Despite the statutory requirement, in FY 2022, the NJCCR was appropriated \$4 million in funding.

Under the bill, the existing lapsing Cancer Research Fund is replaced by a non-lapsing, revolving fund. This fund is to be the repository of the \$10 million in cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues deposited into the account under the bill and any other funds approved by the Department of Health or the commission. Moneys deposited in the fund, and any interest earned thereon, are to be used exclusively for providing grants for cancer research projects authorized and approved by the commission.

The State Treasurer is the custodian of the fund and all disbursements from the fund are to be made by the State Treasurer upon vouchers signed by the chairperson of the commission or the chairperson's designee. The monies in the fund are to be invested and reinvested by the Director of the Division of Investment in the Department of the Treasury in the same manner as other trust funds in the custody of the State Treasurer, in the manner provided by law. Interest received on the monies in the fund are to be credited to the fund.

It is the sponsor's goal that this bill will provide the level of funding needed for cancer research in New Jersey. Cancer remains the second leading cause of death in the State followed by heart disease. An estimated 55,000 residents are diagnosed with cancer annually, of which nearly 16,000 die. Nearly half of all new cancer

1 cases are comprised of prostate, breast, lung and colorectal cancers.
2 In 2020, the diagnosis and treatment of cancer was hampered by the
3 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which caused a
4 reduced access to clinical trials due to closure of laboratories and the
5 disruption of supply chains.
6 Furthermore, cancer disparities in incidence and outcomes
7 continue to be problematic, with the pandemic only exacerbating the
8 situation. Therefore, there is an urgency for rigorous research to
9 investigate the long-term impact of these health inequities, along
10 with COVID-19, on all cancer types. Factors that result in inequities
11 include: 1) socioeconomic status; 2) environmental factors; 3)
12 geography; 4) cultural perceptions; and 5) biologic factors.
13 Research is critical to improve the understanding of why some
14 groups of people may be more or less likely to develop cancer, to
15 experience cancer-related health problems, or to die from cancer.
16 Identifying the underpinnings for all cancers will ultimately help
17 reduce existing disparities.