

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 140

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** constituting a special committee of the
2 Senate entitled the “Senate Select Committee on New Jersey
3 Transit and the Bound Brook Flood.”

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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 proper
23 for the Senate, through an appropriate committee, to examine NJ
24 Transit’s role in the failure of the flood control system to work
25 properly and the subsequent flooding of the Borough of Bound
26 Brook; now, therefore,

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28 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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

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

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1 flood control system cannot prevent the system from serving its
2 intended flood control purposes in the future.

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

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14 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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