

ASSEMBLY, No. 487

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT D. CLIFTON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOT to conduct study and issue report on use of rock salt on roadways.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT requiring the New Jersey Department of Transportation to
2 conduct a study on the use of rock salt on roadways.

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

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7 1. a. The Commissioner of Transportation, in consultation with
8 the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, shall conduct a
9 study on the use of rock salt on roadways in this State and shall
10 prepare and submit a written report, within one year of the effective
11 date of this act, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
12 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, which shall
13 include, but not be limited to, the following:

14 (1) information on the amount and cost of rock salt used by the
15 Department of Transportation to clear snow and ice from roadways
16 over the preceding 10 years;

17 (2) efforts that have been undertaken by the Department of
18 Transportation to reduce the use of rock salt in clearing snow and
19 ice from roadways over the preceding 10 years, including, but not
20 limited to, information on whether the department utilizes road
21 sensors to monitor pavement temperatures to ensure that rock salt is
22 used at the appropriate time, in the appropriate place, and in an
23 appropriate amount and whether, and to what extent, snow plows
24 are equipped with tracking gear to collect information on weather,
25 road conditions, and the amount of rock salt being used;

26 (3) how the use of rock salt on roadways has impacted the levels
27 of sodium chloride in the State's lakes, waterways, wells, and
28 drinking water and how increased levels of sodium chloride impact
29 aquatic life, fisheries, irrigation, recreation, and the quality of life
30 of New Jersey residents;

31 (4) information on indirect costs associated with the use of rock
32 salt by the Department of Transportation, including any costs
33 incurred as a result of increased levels of sodium chloride in the
34 State's lakes, waterways, wells, and drinking water;

35 (5) information on alternatives to rock salt that have been
36 utilized by the Department of Transportation to assist in clearing
37 snow and ice from roadways; and

38 (6) an analysis of feasible alternatives to rock salt that could be
39 utilized by the Department of Transportation in the future to assist
40 in clearing snow and ice from roadways, including alternatives that
41 may partially reduce or replace the use of rock salt in certain
42 weather or geographical situations and including an analysis of the
43 financial and environmental advantages and disadvantages of each
44 feasible alternative.

45 b. In addition to the written report submitted pursuant to
46 subsection a. of this section, the Commissioner of Transportation
47 may submit a proposal for legislation that, in the opinion of the

1 commissioner, improves the laws of this State regarding the use of
2 rock salt to clear snow and ice from roadways.

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4 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
5 the submission of the written report to the Governor and the
6 Legislature pursuant to section 1 of this act.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill requires the Commissioner of Transportation
12 (commissioner), in consultation with the Commissioner of
13 Environmental Protection, to conduct a study on the use of rock salt
14 on roadways in this State and to prepare and submit a written report
15 to the Governor and the Legislature on the topic. The written report
16 is to include:

17 (1) information on the amount and cost of rock salt used by the
18 Department of Transportation (department) over the prior 10 years;

19 (2) efforts that have been undertaken by the department to
20 reduce the use of rock salt over the prior 10 years;

21 (3) how the use of rock salt on roadways has impacted the levels
22 of sodium chloride in the State's lakes, waterways, wells, and
23 drinking water and how increased levels of sodium chloride impact
24 aquatic life, fisheries, irrigation, recreation, and the quality of life
25 of New Jersey residents;

26 (4) information on indirect costs associated with the use of rock
27 salt by the department;

28 (5) information on alternatives to rock salt that have been
29 utilized by the department; and

30 (6) an analysis of feasible alternatives to rock salt that could be
31 utilized by the department in the future, including an analysis of the
32 financial and environmental advantages and disadvantages of each
33 feasible alternative.

34 In addition to the written report, the commissioner is authorized
35 to submit a proposal for legislation that improves the laws of this
36 State regarding the use of rock salt to clear snow and ice from the
37 State's roadways.