

ASSEMBLY, No. 3824

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DONALD A. GUARDIAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Swift

SYNOPSIS

Permits board of county commissioners to establish “Sharing Resources” grant and loan program to encourage shared services and municipal consolidation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning municipal shared services and consolidation
2 and supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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 board of county commissioners of any county may
8 by resolution establish a “Sharing Resources” grant and loan
9 program for local units within the county that plan to study the
10 feasibility of a shared service agreement, a joint meeting contract,
11 or municipal consolidation. Grant and loan monies may be used to
12 fund studies, consultant costs and one-time start-up costs of a
13 shared service agreement, joint meeting contract, or municipal
14 consolidation. The board of county commissioners, in consultation
15 with the Commissioner of Community Affairs, may promulgate
16 rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of its
17 program.

18 b. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall provide
19 common guidelines and procedures for the submission of grant
20 applications to a county “Sharing Resources” grant program.

21 c. Applications for one-time start-up costs shall provide that:

22 (1) Local units may apply for financial assistance for the one-
23 time start-up costs necessary to implement shared services. Costs
24 that may be financed through the issuance of debt or capital lease
25 agreements are excluded from this program.

26 (2) The board of county commissioners may set limits on aid
27 awards and negotiate the various provisions, costs, payment
28 provisions, and amounts of grants or loans to ensure that the
29 proposed shared service is cost effective and in the public interest.

30 d. The board of county commissioners may provide technical
31 support programs to assist local units in applying for grants or aid
32 for studying shared services.

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34 2. The board of county commissioners may receive and expend
35 moneys from the State, the federal government, or private
36 individuals, corporations or associations, to meet all or a portion of
37 the expenses of the “Sharing Resources” grant and loan program,
38 and may raise by taxation, pursuant to R.S.40:23-7, all or a portion
39 of the money necessary to pay for the program.

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill permits the board of county commissioners of any
47 county to establish a “Sharing Resources” grant and loan program
48 for local units within the county that plan to study the feasibility of

1 a shared service agreement, a joint meeting contract, or municipal
2 consolidation. Grant and loan monies may be used to fund studies,
3 consultant costs and one-time start-up costs of a shared service
4 agreement, joint meeting contract, or municipal consolidation. The
5 board of county commissioners, in consultation with the
6 Commissioner of Community Affairs, may promulgate rules and
7 regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of its program. The
8 Commissioner of Community Affairs is required to provide
9 common guidelines and procedures for the submission of grant
10 applications to a county "Sharing Resources" grant program.

11 Applications for one-time start-up costs are required to provide
12 that local units may apply for financial assistance for the one-time
13 start-up costs necessary to implement shared services. Costs that
14 may be financed through the issuance of debt or capital lease
15 agreements are excluded from this program.

16 The board of county commissioners may set limits on aid awards
17 and negotiate the various provisions, costs, payment provisions, and
18 amounts of grants or loans to ensure that the proposed shared
19 service is cost effective and in the public interest. The board of
20 county commissioners may also provide technical support programs
21 to assist local units in applying for grants or aid for studying shared
22 services.

23 The board of county commissioners may receive and expend
24 moneys from the State, the federal government, or private
25 individuals, corporations or associations thereof, to meet all or a
26 portion of the expenses of the "Sharing Resources" grant and loan
27 program, and may raise by taxation, pursuant to R.S.40:23-7, all or
28 a portion of the money necessary to pay for the program.