

P.L. 1995, CHAPTER 409, approved January 10, 1996
[THIRD REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 792

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1994 SESSION

By Assemblyman OROS, Assemblywoman OGDEN
and Assemblyman Corodemus

AN ACT concerning environmental education, supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, repealing P.L.1971. c.279, and making an appropriation.

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

1. a. There is hereby created in but not of the Department of Environmental Protection the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education. The commission shall consist of ¹[21] ²[22¹ 23²] public members, the commissioners, or their designees, of the Department of Education, ¹[the Department of Higher Education,] ¹the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Health, the ¹[environmental prosecutor] Attorney General¹ or a designee ¹with responsibility in the area of environmental law, the Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education¹, and a designee of the governor. The public members shall consist of two college professors in the fields of environmental education or environmental science; one private school teacher and two public school teachers, one of whom is selected by the New Jersey Education Association, including one teacher from ¹[kindergarden] kindergarten¹ to third grade, one from fourth to sixth grade, and one from seventh to twelfth grade; one school administrator; ¹one representative of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association¹; ¹one local school board representative selected by the New Jersey School Board Association; one member of ²[the clergy] an interfaith religious organization²; one representative from labor; one representative from industry; two representatives from environmental or public interest organizations; two representatives from cultural institutions such as museums and nature centers; two representatives from the field of environmental health; two non-academic science professionals; two representatives from the agricultural community; ²[and]² one student representative from a student environmental organization, such as Kids Against Pollution ²; and one representative from the South Jersey Environmental Information Center².

b. The public members shall be appointed by the ¹[governor] Governor¹ for terms of three years, except that the student representative shall be appointed for a term of one year, and in the first year the other public members shall be appointed to staggered terms as follows:

- (1) ¹[Six] Seven¹ shall be appointed to terms of one year;
- (2) Seven shall be appointed to terms of two years; and
- (3) Seven shall be appointed to terms of three years.

c. The commission shall meet, at a minimum, four times a year.

d. ¹The commission shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its membership. The term of office for each position shall be two years.

e.¹ The commission ³[shall have a full-time Executive Director and at least one full-time staff member.] may hire staff as necessary within the limits of funding as provided by section 5 of P.L. c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill).³

2. The commission shall:

a. Advise and oversee the implementation of the Plan of Action ¹[which] that¹ was adopted by the Commission on Environmental Education ¹[established] created¹ by Executive Order Number 205

of 1989 and ¹reconvened as the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education by Executive Order Number 111 of 1993¹;

b. Develop and maintain, with the assistance of the various agencies and departments, a bi-annual inventory of the environmental education resources that are available in all State agencies and departments;

c. Develop and maintain an Environmental Education Network of activities, resources and model programs throughout the State;

d. Organize a global forum on environmental education to be held every three to five years;

e. Organize and support an annual Environmental Education Week;

f. Support such other environmental education activities as the commission determines are appropriate;

g. Provide technical assistance to the Legislature for legislation related to environmental education; and

h. Submit an annual report on the status of environmental education to the Governor and the Legislature.

3. The ³[State Board of Education shall:

a. Integrate environmental education into the State's curriculum frameworks, proficiencies and assessment programs, including the fourth grade, eighth grade, and eleventh grade State tests, except that environmental education shall not be a graduation requirement;] Inter-agency Work Group, created pursuant to section 4 of P.L. c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill), may:³

³[b.] a.³ Publicize existing model environmental education programs;

³[c.] b.³ Provide leadership and coordination in conducting teacher in-service programs throughout the State;

³[d.] c.³ Solicit public and private partnerships at the local, State and national levels to provide teacher education programs; and

³[e.] d.³ Provide the commission with information concerning the availability of environmental education to students in the State.

4. There is created an Inter-agency Work Group, which shall consist of the commissioner ¹or secretary¹, or his designee, of each of the principal departments. This work group shall meet periodically to coordinate the environmental education efforts of the various departments and agencies in the State.

5. ³[a.]³ The Environmental Education Fund is established as a nonlapsing revolving fund in the Department of Environmental Protection. The fund shall be administered by the commission, and shall be credited with all moneys appropriated by this act and with grant moneys or any other revenue obtained by the commission for the purpose of environmental education. Interest received on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

³[b. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Environmental Education Fund ¹[\$300,000, of which \$150,000 shall be from fines and penalties collected for violations of environmental laws] the sum of \$75,000¹. There is allocated from the Environmental Education Fund ¹[\$200,000] the sum of \$50,000¹ to the Environmental Education Commission and ¹[\$100,000] the sum of \$25,000¹ to the State Board of Education, to be used for the purposes set forth in sections 2 and 3 of this act.]³

6. P.L.1971, c.279 ¹(C.18A:6-80 et seq.)¹ is hereby repealed.

7. The Commission on Environmental Education, which was created by Executive Order ¹Number¹ 205 of 1989 ¹and reconvened as the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education by Executive Order Number 111 of 1993¹, is abolished ¹as of the date of the first meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education created by this act¹.

8. This act shall take effect immediately.

Creates NJ Commission on Environmental Education.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AEN committee amendments adopted November 21, 1994.

² Assembly floor amendments adopted December 11, 1995.

³ Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations January 9, 1996.