

NEW JERSEY RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
Public Affairs Committee
Meeting Notes
January 13, 2021

The meeting was held via ZOOM

Present: Kat Avitt, Dave Horsnall, Tim Hill, Mary Beth Wheeler, Anthony Pompei, Craig Harley, Katie Frey, Rick Wright, Bill Foelsch, Mona Cholowinski, Ryan Horne, Tim Roetman, Janice Grasso, Dawn Thompson, Jason Ross, Bruce Kaufman, Denise Lanza, Jill Daggon, Dina Trunzo, Jeff Papcun, Beau Byrtus, Jim Truncer, Don Bogardus, Jen Underwood.

Review of Bills:

A3192/S270 – Expands registration requirements under Megan’s Law to include human trafficking convictions and crimes with minor victims. **Support**

A5003 – Requires Out of State contractors to pay a 1% administrative fee of the total value of the contract, when the prevailing wage law is applicable. Provides that the contractor can subtract other State fees from the administrative fee. Does this put an undue burden on contractors? **Monitor**

A5004/S3154 – Directs the State Treasurer to maintain an Out of State Public Works Contractor Registry of awarded contractors, to be placed on State website. **Monitor**

A5006 – Requires Division of Taxation to perform audits on Out of State contractors to ensure proper handling of the contract. **Monitor**

A5038 – Establishes the NJ Community Learning Program with school district requirements and funding from cannabis revenue. (The Senate bill, #3193, was withdrawn). Funding would be provided to impact zone communities for out of school time programs. The fund is administered by the DOE. It is possible that the overall cannabis bill will nullify individual funding proposals. **Monitor**

A5106 – Requires Travel and Tourism to produce and make available NJ tourism videos. The video would be on the State website and would include sites within geographic distance of each other. **Support**

A5153/S3303 – Requires the Department of Health to conduct a study of Youth Suicide with follow up recommendations. Dept. of Education should be included in study group. **Support**

A5172/S3274 – Establishes the Palisades Cliff Protection Act, limiting the height of new development east of the Palisades. **Support**

A5191/S340 – Establishes Statewide targets to limit organic waste in landfills. DEP must establish regulations. Initial goal is 50% in 5 years. **Monitor**

A5200/S1406 – Requires bidders on public works construction projects to submit information on fire safety features, essentially sprinklers unless an alternate can be verified as equally effective. Tim reported that Orange County FL has a similar requirement that has affected playgrounds. He will research additional information. **Monitor**

A5244/S244 – Requires the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy to study to determine efficiency and scaling in delivery of local government services. These would include code enforcement, health, public works, and emergency services as well as others. **Monitor**

ACR198 – Proposes Statewide Initiative and Referendum in special topic areas. **Oppose**

ACR199 – Proposes Statewide Initiative and Referendum for State Fiscal Restraint related to budget terms and spending review. **Oppose**

S3134/A258 – Requires all new State buildings to have solar or geothermal energy systems. **Support**

S3186/A5035 – Creates Urban Wealth Fund Pilot Program to permit State and certain municipalities to partner with private firm to manage assets to enhance revenue. Concern for protected open space – should be excluded. Rick will speak to Assemblyman Singleton. **Monitor**

The following seven bills were signed into law prior to the meeting. All were supported by the committee.

S3225/A5081 – CBT allocation to Farmland Preservation Planning grants

S3226/A5077 – CBT allocation to Farmland Preservation

S3227/A5080 – CBT allocation for Non Profit Farmland Preservation

A3228/A5079 – CBT allocation for County Farmland Preservation Planning grants

S3229/A5114 – CBT allocation for State Capital and Park Development projects

S3230/A5115 - CBT allocation for State Acquisition Projects including Blue Acres

S3235/A5113 – CBT allocation for NJ Historic Trust Grants

SR102/AR85 – Urges US Fish and Wildlife Service to list monarch butterfly as a threatened species. **Support**

A1285 as amended – Procedures for Design – Build Contracts - language clarifications have been made, stipends become optional, bidders list must be made public, existing DOT contracts with design professionals can continue, evaluation measures must be made by designer without relationship to potential bidders, etc. **Continue to Monitor**

2021 Key Initiatives:

Professional Certification – workgroup to prepare suggested wording for bill. Last meeting was held in October. Rick will follow up with Reginald.

Inclusive Playgrounds – workgroup held phone call with State representatives. Comments were submitted. Awaiting draft regulations. Rick will follow up with Gerry.

Jen noted that most State staff are still working from home except those who need access to specialized computer programs.

NJ DOH COVID guidance – a phone call was held with staff regarding post COVID activities and application of executive and administrative orders. In particular, there was some confusion about the application of indoor restrictions for park and recreation facilities. The last guidance was provided December 4th.

Aquatics – Judith and Bill requested clarification on swim team functions, noting that there has been very little direct connection to virus transmission and, therefore, seeking relief. At this time the same restrictions are being applied.

Appointments – Dina reported that she and Pam have not had a response to their appointments. Rick will follow up.

Bill reported that a student has reached out regarding a research paper on inclusive playgrounds. Dina has provided information.

NEXT MEETING – MARCH 10 VIA ZOOM