

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4863**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 2022

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4863.

This bill, as amended by the committee, establishes a disaster relief program within the Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (division) in the Department of Community Affairs for the purposes of establishing a grant program to provide municipalities with training, supply stockpiles, and technology to be used to assist residents with disaster relief applications and other paperwork, and appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the division for the purposes of the program.

The Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with the division, would establish: (1) an application process for municipalities to access grant monies for the purpose of providing training, technology, and supply stockpiles; (2) guidelines for priority in disbursements according to the Office of Emergency Management's risk assessment score for each municipality; (3) training guidelines for municipal employees who will assist residents with disaster relief paperwork and other paperwork, as appropriate; and (4) guidelines for supply stockpiles as appropriate for each municipality according to its municipal master plan.

The division would disburse grant monies to municipalities based on the criteria established by the division. Each municipality receiving a grant would be required to submit a report one year after the initial disbursement to the division, the Office of Emergency Management, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding how grant funds were utilized, the current risks foreseen by the municipality, and data on how the grant money has improved the emergency preparedness and response capacity of the municipality.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments establish the disaster relief program within the Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation in the Department of Community Affairs, instead of the Division of Local Government Services.