

CHAPTER 211

AN ACT concerning certain federal grants made available to the State for the benefit of wildlife and wildlife habitat and making an appropriation, supplementing P.L.1973, c.309 (C.23:2A-1 et seq.).

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

C.23:2A-15 Matching funds for certain federal grants to benefit wildlife, wildlife habitat.

1. a. There shall be appropriated each fiscal year to the Department of Environmental Protection a sum sufficient to provide the State match required to qualify for any federal grants or other assistance apportioned and made available to the State of New Jersey under the State Wildlife Grants Program or any similar program established pursuant to federal law, rule, or regulation for the purpose of benefitting wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

b. The annual State match appropriation requirement under subsection a. of this section shall be met through the appropriation, from the "Endangered and Nongame Species of Wildlife Conservation Fund" established by section 1 of P.L.1981, c.170 (C.54A:9-25.2), from the "Wildlife Conservation Fund" established by section 1 of P.L.1993, c.119 (C.39:3-33.10), or from any other fund or account established by law exclusively or primarily to fund the conservation of endangered or nongame wildlife and their habitat, of moneys, credited in such funds or accounts, that cumulatively exceed an amount equal to the total amount from those funds or accounts that was used in State fiscal year 2005 to support programs and activities related to the conservation of endangered or nongame wildlife and their habitat, which support is ineligible to meet the State match requirement under the State Wildlife Grants Program.

c. In any fiscal year, to the extent that funds directed to be appropriated under subsection b. of this section are insufficient to meet the annual State match appropriation requirement under subsection a. of this section, the remaining amount necessary to meet that requirement shall be made from the General Fund.

d. The sum appropriated under this section each fiscal year shall be expended by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes and in accordance with the requirements of the federal program and to allow the Endangered and Nongame Species Program in the division to perform its duties and responsibilities.

2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$381,715 to provide the State match for the year 2004 sums which have been apportioned and made available to the State of New Jersey under the State Wildlife Grants Program established by the federal government. The sum appropriated pursuant to this section shall be expended by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes and in accordance with the requirements of the federal program and to allow the Endangered and Nongame Species Program in the division to perform its duties and responsibilities. To the extent that the State has expended any funds from other sources to provide the State match for the year 2004 under the State Wildlife Grants Program established by the federal government, the sum appropriated pursuant to this section shall be used to fully reimburse those other sources accordingly.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 29, 2005.