

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 136, *approved July 21, 2017*
Senate, No. 3027

1 **AN ACT** concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing
2 Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that food waste is a major
8 issue in the United States and globally; that, according to the Food
9 and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
10 unwanted and discarded food squanders resources, including water,
11 land, energy, labor, and capital, and, when food waste is dumped in
12 a landfill, it rots and creates methane, which is a powerful
13 greenhouse gas; that the FAO has estimated that one third of the
14 food produced in the world for human consumption – about 1.3
15 billion tons – is lost or wasted every year, and the food loss and
16 waste in industrialized countries equates to a value of
17 approximately \$680 billion; that the FAO has also stated that if one
18 fourth of the food lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would
19 be enough to feed 870 million hungry people; that the Harvard Food
20 Law and Policy Clinic has estimated that 40 percent of the food
21 supply in the United States is not eaten; that, according to the
22 United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United
23 States Department of Agriculture, food loss and waste is the single
24 largest component of disposed municipal solid waste in the United
25 States; in 2015, that the Administrator of the United States
26 Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the United
27 States Department of Agriculture announced a national goal of
28 reducing food waste by 50 percent by the year 2030; that much
29 more can and must be done in the food supply chain to reduce the
30 incredible waste of such a precious resource; that New Jersey is a
31 national leader in implementing effective recycling and solid waste
32 reduction programs, and thus it is appropriate for the State to also
33 be among the national leaders in developing and implementing a
34 Statewide food waste reduction program; and that, therefore, it is
35 appropriate and fitting, as well as a moral imperative, that the State
36 seek to reduce food waste as much as possible in New Jersey, and
37 that reducing food waste in the State by 50 percent by the year 2030
38 is a worthy goal to pursue with vigor and all due speed.

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40 2. a. There is established for the State a goal of reducing, by
41 the year 2030, the amount of food waste generated annually in the

1 State by 50 percent of that amount which is generated in the year
2 this act takes effect.

3 b. (1) Within one year after the effective date of this act, the
4 Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the
5 Department of Agriculture, shall develop and commence
6 implementation of a plan to accomplish the State food waste
7 reduction goal established by subsection a. of this section. The
8 Department of Environmental Protection shall hold at least three
9 public hearings during the development of the plan to seek public
10 input thereon. The departments may also consult and coordinate
11 with other governmental entities and private, nonprofit, or
12 charitable associations, organizations, or businesses, such as those
13 in the agricultural, grocery, restaurant, food manufacturer, food
14 supply, food bank, food pantry, and healthcare sectors of the food
15 industry, in developing and implementing the plan.

16 (2) As part of the plan, the Department of Environmental
17 Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, shall
18 make such recommendations for any administrative or legislative
19 action deemed necessary to further progress toward achieving the
20 State food waste reduction goal, which shall be transmitted to the
21 Legislature in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of
22 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) and to the chairpersons of the
23 Senate Environment and Energy Committee, the Senate Economic
24 Growth Committee, the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste
25 Committee, and the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources
26 Committee, or their respective successors.

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28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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31 STATEMENT

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33 This bill would establish for the State a goal of reducing, by the
34 year 2030, the amount of food waste generated annually in the State
35 by 50 percent of that amount which is generated in the year this bill
36 takes effect.

37 The bill would require the Department of Environmental
38 Protection (DEP), in consultation with the Department of
39 Agriculture (DOA) and within one year, to develop and commence
40 implementation of a plan to accomplish the 50 percent State food
41 waste reduction goal. The DEP would be required to hold at least
42 three public hearings during the development of the plan to seek
43 public input thereon. The departments also would be authorized to
44 consult and coordinate with other governmental entities and private,
45 nonprofit, or charitable associations, organizations, or businesses,
46 such as those in the agricultural, grocery, restaurant, food
47 manufacturer, food supply, food bank, food pantry, and healthcare

1 sectors of the food industry, in developing and implementing the
2 plan.

3 As part of the plan, the DEP, in consultation with the DOA,
4 would be required to make such recommendations for any
5 administrative or legislative action deemed necessary to further
6 progress toward achieving the State food waste reduction goal.

7 Food waste is a major issue in the United States and globally.
8 According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
9 Nations (FAO), unwanted and discarded food squanders resources,
10 including water, land, energy, labor, and capital. In addition, when
11 food waste is dumped in a landfill, it rots and creates methane,
12 which is a powerful greenhouse gas. The FAO has estimated that
13 one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption
14 – about 1.3 billion tons – is lost or wasted every year, and the food
15 loss and waste in industrialized countries equates to a value of
16 approximately \$680 billion. The FAO has also stated that if one
17 fourth of the food lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would
18 be enough to feed 870 million hungry people. In addition, the
19 Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic has estimated that 40 percent
20 of the food supply in the United States is not eaten. Also, the
21 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the
22 United States Department of Agriculture have stated that food loss
23 and waste is the single largest component of disposed municipal
24 solid waste in the United States.

25 In 2015, the Administrator of EPA and the Secretary of the
26 United States Department of Agriculture announced a national goal
27 of reducing food waste by 50 percent by the year 2030. This bill
28 would set that same goal for the State of New Jersey and thereby
29 start the State on the road of doing its proper part in halting this
30 worldwide waste of precious natural resources and in helping to
31 ensure that all people everywhere can have enough food to eat.

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36 Establishes State food waste reduction goal of 50 percent by
37 2030.