

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 227

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 10, 2005

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex)

Assemblyman MICHAEL PANTER

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblyman ROBERT GORDON

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Scalera, Conners, Conaway, Assemblywoman Pou,

Assemblyman Eagler, Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblymen Steele,

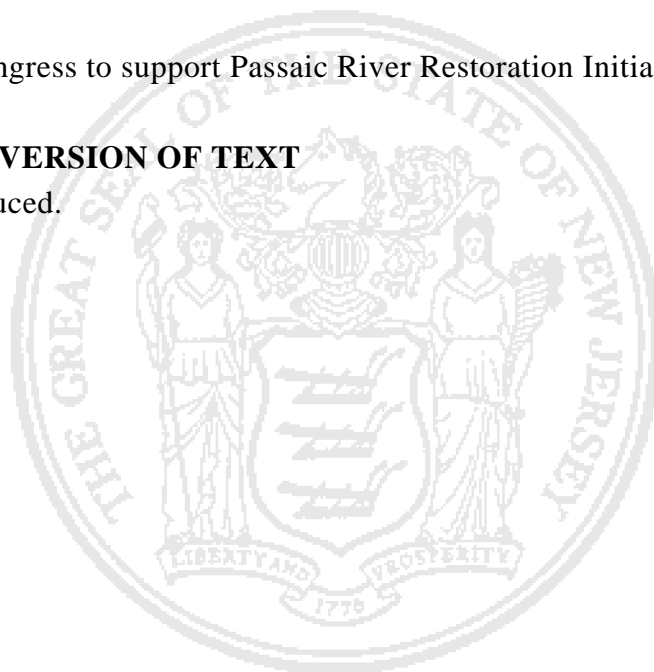
Gusciora and Prieto

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to support Passaic River Restoration Initiative.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/25/2005)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 support the Passaic River Restoration Initiative.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The Passaic River Restoration Initiative (PRRI), a new
5 cooperative approach to restore the Passaic River, will utilize the
6 leadership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with
7 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and various concerned
8 federal, state and local agencies; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The Passaic River and its surrounding wetlands have been
10 degraded as a result of the State's commercial growth that brought
11 industrial development to the Passaic's shores and surrounding
12 properties; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The Passaic River, which traverses New Jersey through
14 Newark, is an ideal pilot for the proposed PRRI as appropriated by
15 Congress; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Under the PRRI, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will
17 engage in a cooperative project planning and development process
18 to identify and apply feasible solutions to achieve environmental
19 restoration and economic revitalization of the Passaic River; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The results of the project development process will be
21 incorporated in a report to Congress from the Chief of Engineers
22 as project implementation will require authorization by Congress;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, The PRRI is related to several other current major federal
25 initiatives, such as those under Brownfields Redevelopment, the
26 NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program, and the Natural Resources
27 Damage Assessment and Restoration Program; and

28 **WHEREAS**, On April 11, 2000 the Committee on Transportation and
29 Infrastructure in the United States House of Representatives
30 approved a resolution authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of
31 Engineers to conduct the Passaic River Environmental Restoration
32 reconnaissance study, which is currently underway by the Corps'
33 New York district; and

34 **WHEREAS**, It is in the best interest of the State to support the
35 enactment of the Passaic River Restoration Initiative in order to
36 restore and preserve the Passaic River to healthy environmental and
37 economic conditions; now, therefore,

38
39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
40 *Jersey:*

41
42 1. This House urges the United States Congress to support the
43 Passaic River Restoration Initiative in order to restore and preserve
44 the Passaic River to healthy environmental and economic conditions,
45 and to provide the funding for the federal share of the project
46 development process and the necessary study funds of the U.S. Army

1 Corps of Engineers to advance the Passaic River Restoration Initiative.

2

3 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
4 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof,
5 shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the
6 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority
7 and minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States
8 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from
9 this State.

10

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This resolution urges the United States Congress to support the
15 Passaic River Restoration Initiative in order to restore and preserve
16 the Passaic River to healthy environmental and economic conditions.
17 The Passaic River, which traverses New Jersey through Newark, has
18 been degraded as a result of our nation's commercial growth that
19 brought industrial development to the Passaic's shores and surrounding
20 properties.

21 The Passaic River Restoration Initiative (PRRI), a new cooperative
22 approach to restore the Passaic River, will utilize the leadership of the
23 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the U.S.
24 Environmental Protection Agency, and various concerned federal,
25 state and local agencies. Under this approach, the U.S. Army Corps
26 of Engineers will engage in a cooperative project planning and
27 development process to identify and apply feasible solutions to achieve
28 environmental restoration and economic revitalization of the Passaic
29 River. Under the PRRI, the Passaic River can become a national
30 showcase for the restoration of urban waterways and wildlife habitat,
31 and set forth a direct and efficient solution to restore the
32 environmental and economic value to one of America's most historic
33 rivers.