

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4632

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

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**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

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**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DEP to establish voluntary guidelines for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/29/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning food waste in K-12 schools and institutions of  
2 higher education, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, the  
9 Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the  
10 Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, the  
11 Department of Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Higher  
12 Education, shall establish, or work with appropriate nonprofit  
13 organizations to establish, voluntary guidelines to encourage and  
14 facilitate the ability of K-12 schools and institutions of higher  
15 education to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste.

16 b. The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to:

17 (1) information on food waste generally, and the benefits of  
18 reducing, recovering, and recycling food waste;

19 (2) recommendations for how schools can incorporate this  
20 information in their curricula, and create programs and activities for  
21 the reduction, recovery, and recycling of food waste;

22 (3) recommendations for how schools can reduce the volume of  
23 surplus food they generate, including, but not necessarily limited to,  
24 conducting food audits, eliminating trays in cafeterias, enacting  
25 longer lunch periods, scheduling lunch periods after recess,  
26 establishing “offer versus serve” policies, and allowing students to  
27 keep uneaten food;

28 (4) guidance on how schools can create share tables in their  
29 cafeterias where students may return uneaten food that is still in its  
30 original packaging or peel for consumption by other students,  
31 resale, or donation;

32 (5) information on cost-effective, safe, and sanitary means by  
33 which schools may donate excess, unused, and edible food to food  
34 banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit  
35 organizations that distribute food to needy individuals; and

36 (6) information on how schools can recycle their food waste,  
37 including the creation of on-site composting programs.

38 c. The Department of Environmental Protection, the  
39 Department of Education, and the Office of the Secretary of Higher  
40 Education shall post the guidelines on their respective Internet  
41 websites.

42  
43 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

44  
45 **STATEMENT**

46  
47 This bill would require the Department of Environmental  
48 Protection (DEP), in consultation with other State agencies, to

1 establish voluntary guidelines for K-12 schools and institutions of  
2 higher education to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste.

3 The guidelines would include, but need not be limited to: (1)  
4 information on food waste generally and the benefits of reducing,  
5 recovering, and recycling food waste; (2) recommendations for how  
6 schools can incorporate this information into their curricula and  
7 create programs and activities for the reduction, recovery, and  
8 recycling of food waste; (3) recommendations for how schools can  
9 reduce the volume of surplus food they generate; (4) guidance on  
10 how schools can create share tables in their cafeterias; (5)  
11 information on cost-effective, safe, and sanitary means by which  
12 schools may donate excess, unused, and edible food to nonprofit  
13 organizations that distribute food to needy individuals; and (6)  
14 information on how schools can recycle their food waste. The DEP,  
15 the Department of Education, and the Office of the Secretary of  
16 Higher Education would be required to post the guidelines on their  
17 Internet websites.