

# NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*County Government with a Unified Voice!*

JEFFREY DUBLIN  
NJAC President  
Hudson County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO  
Executive Director

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Honorable  
Address  
Address

## RE: MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC), I would like the opportunity to discuss with you the possibility of sponsoring legislation that would authorize a county, by resolution, to establish a mosquito control reserve. NJAC's Board of Directors unanimously adopted this initiative as one of our top legislative priorities as it will help county governments throughout the State deliver services more effectively and efficiently while enhancing the level of service provided.

As you know, current law requires counties to conduct comprehensive mosquito control activities that may include source control, trap setting, water management, surveillance, brush cleaning, public education, and the use of other critical vector control techniques. As the State continues to endure extended periods of heat, humidity, and rainfall, it's becoming increasingly more difficult for mosquito control officials to accurately predict mosquito populations. In fact, several counties recently issued emergency bonds as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 26:9-28 as they did not anticipate the surging mosquito population and substantial costs associated with eradicating mosquitoes and the potential diseases they carry and transmit.

With this mind, authorizing a county to establish a mosquito control reserve, similar to a snow removal reserve N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1, would stabilize the mosquito control budgeting process and enhance fiscal planning for mosquito control activities. Moreover, a mosquito control reserve would streamline the process for using emergency monies by eliminating the need to issue an overly burdensome bond that a county must provide in full as a deferred change in the next budget year N.J.S.A. 40A:4-47. NJAC recommends using the language contained on the following page to amend or supplement various sections of

statutory law, so that all twenty-one counties may benefit from the use of a mosquito control reserve. These sections may include, but are not limited to the "Local Budget law" at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1, which may capture all twenty-one counties; the "Optional County Charter Law" N.J.S.A. 40:41A-1 et seq., which would capture Atlantic, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, and Union counties; and, the "County Extermination Law" N.J.S.A. 26:9-13 et seq., which would capture those counties with independent mosquito control commissions and include Camden, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, and Warren counties.

"A local unit may, by resolution, establish a mosquito control reserve. Unexpended balances budgeted annually for mosquito control activities may be lapsed into the reserve. Upon passage of a resolution of the governing body, funds in the reserve may be used for any purpose related to mosquito control by a county after current budget appropriations for that purpose have been expended. The Local Finance Board is authorized to adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) in order to effectuate the purposes of this section."

NJAC is committed to advocating for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empower county governments to operate more effectively and efficiently. As a non-partisan organization that represents the only true regional form of government in the State with a unified and proactive voice, NJAC is committed to advancing innovative programs and initiatives that enhance the level of service provided and save valuable taxpayer dollars. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon with some good news.

Very truly yours,

John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
Executive Director