

Legislative Update
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The races for General Assembly are underway and, with the exception of some minor Senate activity, the Legislature is expected to remain on recess until November. There has therefore been no legislative activity since the end of June and no action on key MTA/NJ bills to report. We have been working with MTA/NJ on a few critical initiatives for action in the remainder of this legislative session. These include:

Assembly Bill 2624: The bill would establish mandatory boat safety classes for all New Jersey boaters. The bill remains held in the Assembly at the request of the MTA/NJ in order to address amendments made in the Senate that weaken the standards requested by the Association. We intend to pursue amendments to the legislation that returns the boat education standards to higher levels.

Assembly Bill 3080: The bill provides mandatory liability insurance for all boats in New Jersey. The bill remains held on second reading in the Assembly. No Senate version has been introduced prior to the recess.

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Legislation: The MTA/NJ has been working with legislators and staff to introduce legislation that would promote the beneficial use of all appropriate dredged material from dredging projects throughout the State, particularly small quantities of dredged material from non-Port state channels, municipal and private projects. Such a bill would, among other things, mandate State agencies, and encourage municipalities, to look to beneficial use options for management of dredged materials. The goal is to ensure the dual effect of expediting beneficial use planning and siting of dredged material management areas, for public and private projects, as well as serve to promote the use of dredged material as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly resource.

We will continue to work with the members of the Legislature and the Administration through the remainder of the year on issues of concern to the MTA/NJ and to ensure that priorities and problems are addressed before “lame duck” begins. “Lame duck” is the name commonly given to the short period following an election and prior to the beginning of the new legislative session. The Legislature uses this period to complete action on a limited number of bills. Any bill not passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor before the swearing in of the new Legislature in January must be reintroduced, regardless of where they stand in the legislative process at the end of this session. No schedule of votes has been released for this period at this time.