The Record
HACKENSACK, N. J.
D. 158,172 SUN. 194,251

MAR 18 1976



DAVID J. BARDIN
Wants disease-rate probe

N.J. asked for cancer study funds

By MARY AMOROSO
The Record Trenton Bureau

TRENTON — The state Department of Environmental Protection has requested an extra $2.3 million in next year's budget to investigate reasons for New Jersey's high cancer rate believed to be the highest in the nation.

Environmental Commissioner David J. Bardin yesterday asked the joint legislative Appropriations Committee to include funds for cancer study in Gov. Byrne's $2.7-billion austerity budget.

Bardin also asked the committee to add $4.5 million to his department's $20.6-million budget for programs to manage garbage disposal, to protect coastal areas and wildlife, and to map flood plains.

The Appropriation Committee seemed sympathetic. It has until July 1 to send the budget to the state legislature for a vote.

Bardin yesterday cited for the committee the World Health Organization estimate that up to 85 per cent of all cancer is caused directly from elements in the environment, and said state environmental laws do not protect against cancer-causing agents in air and water.

Bardin is asking for $510,000 to sample potential carcinogens (cancer-causing substances) in the air, and $577,000 to analyze samples from public water supplies, streams, and fish tissues. He wants $1.25 million to develop strategies to control the emission of cancer-causing agents.

A nationwide study by the National Cancer Institute has disclosed that New Jersey, with its high degree of industrialization, has the highest cancer rates in the country and is in the top 10 per cent in total cancer mortality.

Asbestos, vinyl chloride, and the benzidene and beta-napthylamine used in dye-making — all liked to cancer — escape into the air from New Jersey manufacturing plants, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from two General Electric plants in New York state have polluted the Hudson River.

Northern New Jersey's high concentration of automobile traffic means the release of a high level of nitrogen oxide, an exhaust component which combines with other chemicals to produce cancer-causing nitrosamines. Asbestos from clutches and brakes is released by friction.

Bardin also asked for:

- $1.6 million to develop better garbage-disposal programs and to establish a division to regulate disposal of hazardous chemical waste.
- $2.3 million to map areas of the state most susceptible to flooding, to control mosquitoes, and to protect the coastline against erosion. Construction is banned in floodplains.
- $625,000 to provide summer trips for disadvantaged youths, and to protect the state's endangered species, including the bald eagle, the falcon, and the osprey.

MONS 037092