

ASSEMBLY, No. 467

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Preschool Through Grade 20 Council; appropriates \$500,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT establishing the Preschool Through Grade 20 Council and
2 making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Nationwide, the percent of high school students intending to
9 continue education after high school is approximately 90%, greater
10 than at any time in history.

11 b. Our society faces serious challenges in the provision of
12 education, including changes in demographics such as shifts in the
13 composition of the school-age population, the need for increased
14 levels of education to insure success in the workplace, and changes
15 in the workplace which require workers with different skill sets.

16 c. The challenge our society faces comes as well from
17 comparisons with the advances in education being made in other
18 countries in the world where:

19 (1) one country after another has surpassed the United States in
20 the proportion of its entering workforce with the equivalent of a
21 high school education;

22 (2) in contrast to 30 years ago when the United States had 30%
23 of the world's population of college graduates, that percent is now
24 14%;

25 (3) American workers face competition from workers in other
26 countries, at every skill level, who are willing to work for relatively
27 lower wages;

28 (4) outsourcing is not going to be eliminated;

29 (5) jobs subject to automation, once only low-skilled jobs, now
30 include any job involving routine work;

31 (6) to compete effectively on the international scene, in addition
32 to having strong skills in traditional subjects, students will need to
33 be comfortable with ideas and abstractions, be capable at both
34 analysis and synthesis, and be able to learn quickly and work well
35 as a member of a team; and

36 (7) continuation with our current structures and practices for
37 education will, in the long term, subject our nation to a steadily
38 falling standard of living and perhaps, at some point, lead investors
39 to seek other countries from which to get a greater return on their
40 investment.

41 d. The existing design and structure of public education reflects a
42 disconnection between three systems, preschool, K-12 school
43 districts, and colleges and universities.

44 e. Greater collaboration between earlier education and college
45 offers many benefits, including:

46 (1) students who are better prepared for college;

47 (2) alignment of State standards with college admissions;

- 1 (3) reduction in the need for college remediation; and
- 2 (4) improvement of teacher preparation.

3 f. At least 24 states have some form of kindergarten or preschool
4 through grade 16 or 20 partnership, the experiences of which can be
5 used to address the issue of increased educational alignment in this
6 State.

7
8 2. a. There is established the Preschool Through Grade 20
9 Council in, but not of, the Department of Education. The council
10 shall consist of 29 members as follows: 19 members appointed by
11 the Governor including: six public members; one member selected
12 from among recommendations made by Rutgers, the State
13 University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the
14 University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; one member
15 selected from among recommendations made by the State colleges
16 and universities established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of
17 the New Jersey Statutes; one member selected from among
18 recommendations made by the county colleges; one member
19 representing the early childhood education community; one member
20 representing the county vocational school districts; one member
21 representing the independent institutions of higher education; one
22 member representing the proprietary institutions offering post
23 secondary education degrees; one member jointly recommended by
24 the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the New
25 Jersey Chamber of Commerce; and one member from each of the
26 following organizations: the New Jersey Education Association; the
27 American Association of University Professors; the New Jersey
28 State Federation of Teachers; the New Jersey School Boards
29 Association; and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
30 Association; three members appointed by the President of the
31 Senate, one public member, and two members of the Senate no
32 more than one of whom shall be from the same political party; three
33 members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, one
34 public member, and two members of the General Assembly no more
35 than one of whom shall be from the same political party; the
36 chairperson of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education,
37 ex officio, or a designee; the Commissioner of Education, ex
38 officio, or a designee; the Commissioner of Human Services, ex
39 officio, or a designee; and the executive director of the New Jersey
40 Economic Development Authority, ex officio, or a designee. The
41 executive director of the council shall be a non-voting member of
42 the council.

43 b. Each member of the council appointed by the Governor and
44 the public members appointed by the President of the Senate and
45 the Speaker of the General Assembly shall be appointed for a three-
46 year term, but of the members first appointed by the Governor,
47 eight shall be appointed for a term of three years, six shall be

1 appointed for a term of two years, and five shall be appointed for a
2 term of one year, and the public members first appointed by the
3 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly
4 shall be appointed for a term of two years.

5 c. Appointments to the council shall be made within 30 days of
6 the effective date of this act. Each member appointed by the
7 Governor and each public member appointed by the President of the
8 Senate and Speaker of the General Assembly shall hold office for
9 the term of appointment and until his successor is appointed and
10 qualified. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the
11 membership of the council for any reason other than the expiration
12 of the term shall have a term of appointment for the unexpired term
13 only. Vacancies in the membership of the council shall be filled in
14 the same manner as the original appointments are made. A member
15 may be appointed for any number of successive terms. Any member
16 appointed by the Governor and any public member appointed by the
17 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly
18 may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause, after a
19 hearing and may be suspended by the Governor pending the
20 completion of the hearing. Members of the council shall serve
21 without compensation but shall be entitled to their actual and
22 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties
23 pursuant to this act.

24 d. The council shall organize within 30 days after the
25 appointment of its members upon the call of the chairperson. The
26 chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor from among the
27 public members. The council shall select a vice-chairperson from
28 among its members, and a secretary who need not be a member of
29 the council.

30 e. The council shall appoint an executive director and such
31 other personnel as may be deemed necessary. The executive
32 director and professional staff shall serve at the council's pleasure
33 and shall receive such compensation as provided by law.

34

35 3. It shall be the duty of the council to:

36 a. examine the structure and design of the current system of
37 public education by which preschool through college and university
38 education is provided;

39 b. consider the findings of the New Commission on the Skills of
40 the American Workforce contained in its report, "Tough Choices or
41 Tough Times," and develop recommendations related to the report;

42 c. examine the efforts of other states to achieve a cohesive and
43 aligned preschool through grade 20 system of public education;

44 d. provide a listing of the component parts that make up a
45 preschool through grade 20 public education system, develop the
46 structure and design of such a system, and compile information on
47 the policy issues associated with integrating the component parts

1 into a cohesive and aligned preschool through grade 20 public
2 education system, such as standards, testing, teacher education,
3 college admissions policies, governance, funding streams and
4 competition among institutions; and

5 e. explore possible ways that the component parts of the current
6 educational system can collaborate to provide students with a more
7 cohesive and integrated system, and facilitate that collaboration.

8
9 4. No later than six months following its organizational meeting,
10 the council shall issue a report containing its initial findings and any
11 recommendations it deems appropriate to the Governor and to the
12 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).
13 The council shall report to the Governor and the Legislature at least
14 annually thereafter and may communicate findings and
15 recommendations at any other time it deems appropriate.

16
17 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$500,000 to the
18 Department of Education for the Preschool Through Grade 20
19 Council.

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21 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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23

24 STATEMENT

25
26 This bill establishes the Preschool Through Grade 20 Council in,

27 but not of, the Department of Education. The council will consist
28 of 29 members as follows: 19 members appointed by the Governor
29 including: six public members; one member selected from among
30 recommendations made by Rutgers, the State University, the New
31 Jersey Institute of Technology, and the University of Medicine and
32 Dentistry of New Jersey; one member selected from among
33 recommendations made by the nine State colleges and universities;
34 one member selected from among recommendations made by the
35 county colleges; one member representing the early childhood
36 education community; one member representing the county
37 vocational school districts; one member representing the
38 independent institutions of higher education; one member
39 representing the proprietary institutions offering post secondary
40 education degrees; one member jointly recommended by the New
41 Jersey Business and Industry Association and the New Jersey
42 Chamber of Commerce; and one member from each of the
43 following organizations: the New Jersey Education Association; the
44 American Association of University Professors; the New Jersey
45 State Federation of Teachers; the New Jersey School Boards
46 Association; and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
47 Association; three members appointed by the President of the

1 Senate - one public member, and two members of the Senate no
2 more than one of whom shall be from the same political party; three
3 members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly - one
4 public member, and two members of the General Assembly no more
5 than one of whom shall be from the same political party; the
6 chairperson of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, or
7 a designee; the Commissioner of Education, or a designee; the
8 Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee; and the executive
9 director of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, or a
10 designee. The executive director of the council will be a non-voting
11 member.

12 The council is to: consider the structure and design of the current
13 system by which a preschool through grade 20 public education is
14 provided; examine the efforts of other states to achieve a cohesive
15 and aligned preschool through grade 20 system of public education;
16 examine the findings of the New Commission on the Skills of the
17 American Workforce contained in its report, "Tough Choices or
18 Tough Times," and develop recommendations related to this report;
19 provide a listing of the components that in the council's judgment
20 would comprise a coherent and aligned preschool through grade 20
21 system of public education, and the design and structure of such a
22 system; state and discuss the policy issues associated with
23 integrating these components into a cohesive and aligned preschool
24 through grade 20 public education system, such as standards,
25 testing, teacher education, college admissions policies, governance,
26 funding streams and competition among institutions; and explore
27 possible ways that the component parts of the current system can
28 collaborate to provide students with a more cohesive and integrated
29 system, and facilitate such collaboration.

30 No later than six months following its organizational meeting,
31 the council is to issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature
32 containing its initial findings and any recommendations it deems
33 appropriate. The council is to report to the Governor and the
34 Legislature at least annually thereafter and may communicate its
35 findings and recommendations at any other time it deems
36 appropriate.

37 The bill appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Education
38 for the Preschool Through 20 Council.