

# SENATE, No. 1039

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2014

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**  
**District 29 (Essex)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Directs State Board of Education to develop autism spectrum disorder endorsement and requires all teacher preparation programs to include a special education component.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S1039 RUIZ

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1 AN ACT concerning special education and supplementing chapter  
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. In addition to any other requirements adopted by the State  
8 Board of Education for teacher preparation programs, the State  
9 board shall require that the preparation program for an instructional  
10 certificate include a minimum of 6 semester credit hours in special  
11 education.

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13 2. a. The State Board of Education shall develop an autism  
14 spectrum disorder endorsement that authorizes the holder to teach  
15 special education to students with autism. In addition to the content  
16 areas that the teacher's endorsements authorize, the holder of an  
17 autism spectrum disorder endorsement also may provide  
18 consultative services and supportive resource programs including  
19 modification and adaption of curriculum and instruction to students  
20 with autism in general education programs in grades preschool  
21 through 12.

22 b. The State board shall establish requirements for teacher  
23 preparation programs for the autism spectrum disorder  
24 endorsement.

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26 3. A teacher holding the Students with Disabilities  
27 endorsement issued by the State Board of Education prior to the  
28 effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
29 Legislature as this bill) may continue to teach students with autism  
30 in grades preschool through 12 if the teacher can demonstrate to the  
31 school district at which the teacher is employed content knowledge  
32 appropriate to the content and the content level to be taught.

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34 4. The State Board of Education shall adopt, pursuant to the  
35 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
36 seq.), the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions  
37 of this act.

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39 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill provides that, in addition to any other requirements  
45 adopted by the State Board of Education for teacher preparation  
46 programs, the State board must require that the preparation program  
47 for an instructional certificate include a minimum of 6 semester  
48 credit hours in special education.

**S1039 RUIZ**

1       The bill also directs the State board to develop an autism  
2 spectrum disorder endorsement that authorizes the holder to teach  
3 special education to students with autism. Under the bill, in  
4 addition to the content areas that the teacher's endorsements  
5 authorize, the holder of an autism spectrum disorder endorsement  
6 also may provide consultative services and supportive resource  
7 programs including modification and adaption of curriculum and  
8 instruction to students with autism in general education programs in  
9 grades preschool through 12. The bill directs the State board to  
10 establish requirements for teacher preparation programs for the  
11 autism spectrum disorder endorsement.

12       The bill provides that a teacher holding the Students with  
13 Disabilities endorsement issued by the State Board of Education  
14 prior to the effective date of this bill may continue to teach students  
15 with autism in grades preschool through grade 12 if the teacher can  
16 demonstrate to the school district at which the teacher is employed  
17 content knowledge appropriate to the content and the content level  
18 to be taught.