

ASSEMBLY, No. 3341

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman ANGEL FUENTES

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

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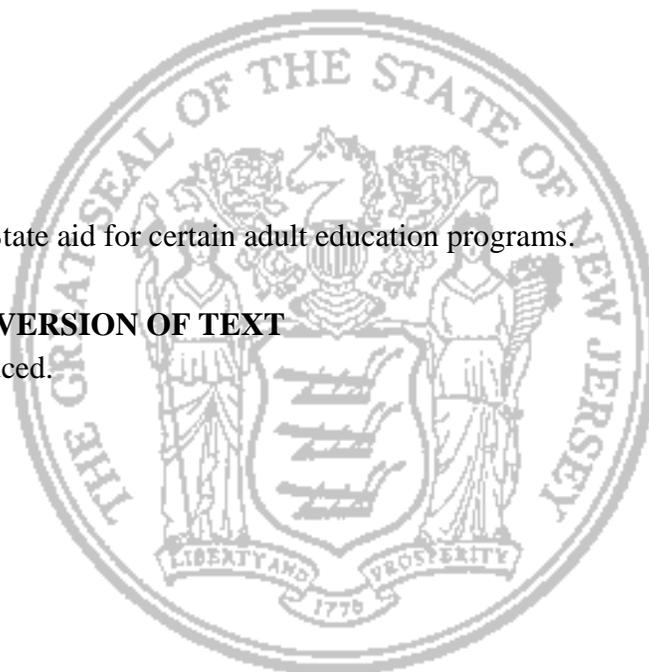
**Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Caputo, Wolfe, Singleton and
Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie**

SYNOPSIS

Provides State aid for certain adult education programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/17/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning State aid for adult education programs and
2 amending and supplementing P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-43 et
3 al.).

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

7
8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. New Jersey employers express an ongoing need for
10 employees who possess the academic, technical, and essential
11 employability skills to fill entry-level positions in a wide range of
12 fields that do not require a college degree;

13 b. Research indicates that many well-paying “middle skill”
14 career pathways can be launched with an industry certificate or an
15 associates degree, and that approximately 17 million such jobs are
16 expected to be filled by the year 2020;

17 c. New Jersey’s diverse population needs a range of
18 educational options that provide multiple pathways to employment
19 and career success, rather than a sole focus on preparation for
20 college;

21 d. The more than 800,000 New Jerseyans who lack a high
22 school diploma are more likely to be unemployed, will have lower
23 lifetime earning potential, and are more likely to live in poverty.
24 This negatively impacts these individuals, their families, and New
25 Jersey’s economy;

26 e. While adult high schools and county vocational-technical
27 school postsecondary training programs play a critical role in
28 preparing out-of-school youth and adults for entry into the
29 workforce, the elimination of State funding for such programs under
30 the “School Funding Reform Act of 2008,” P.L.2007, c.260
31 (C.18A:7F-43 et al.), has had the unintended consequence of
32 reducing both the number of programs offered and the number of
33 New Jerseyans served; and

34 f. State funding policy should support a range of available
35 education and training programs that maximize the use of facilities
36 and equipment while enabling adult students to develop critical
37 academic skills for a high school diploma or gain technical and
38 work readiness skills that lead directly to employment.

39
40 2. (New section) For the 2015-2016 school year, and for each
41 subsequent school year prior to the first submission of the
42 Educational Adequacy Report pursuant to the provisions of section
43 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46) that occurs after the effective
44 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
45 State aid shall be distributed on an unweighted per pupil basis for

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 pupils enrolled in an approved adult high school and a post-
2 graduate program. State aid shall be distributed on a full-time
3 equivalent basis for a student enrolled in an approved post-
4 secondary program of a county vocational school district. For the
5 2015-2016 school year, districts shall receive \$1,500 for each adult
6 pupil. For each subsequent school year prior to the first submission
7 of the Educational Adequacy Report pursuant to section 4 of
8 P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46) that occurs after the effective date
9 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
10 per pupil amount shall be inflated by the CPI. Thereafter, the per
11 pupil amounts shall be established pursuant to the provisions of
12 section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46).

13 The commissioner shall review existing programs to establish
14 appropriate per pupil amounts that recognize the higher cost of the
15 post-secondary programs of county vocational school districts.

16

17 3. (New section) The Commissioner of Education, in
18 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
19 Development, shall identify funding providing for employment
20 training programs that may be used to support an approved adult
21 high school, a post-graduate program, and an approved post-
22 secondary program of a county vocational school district.

23

24 4. Section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 4. a. The State Board of Education shall review and update the
27 core curriculum content standards every five years. The standards
28 shall ensure that all children are provided the educational
29 opportunity needed to equip them for the role of citizen and labor
30 market competitor.

31 The Commissioner of Education shall develop and establish,
32 through the report issued pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
33 efficiency standards which define the types of programs, services,
34 activities, and materials necessary to achieve a thorough and
35 efficient education.

36 b. By September 1 of 2010 and by September 1 every three
37 years thereafter, the Governor, after consultation with the
38 commissioner, shall recommend to the Legislature through the
39 issuance of the Educational Adequacy Report for the three school
40 years to which the report is applicable:

41 (1) the base per pupil amount based upon the core curriculum
42 content standards established pursuant to subsection a. of this
43 section;

44 (2) the per pupil amounts for full-day preschool;

45 (3) the weights for grade level, county vocational school
46 districts, at-risk pupils, bilingual pupils, and combination pupils;

47 (4) the cost coefficients for security aid and transportation aid;

- 1 (5) the State average classification rate for general special
2 education services pupils and for speech-only pupils;
3 (6) the excess cost for general special education services pupils
4 and for speech-only pupils; **[and]**
5 (7) the extraordinary special education aid thresholds ;
6 (8) the per pupil amount for approved adult high schools and
7 post-graduate programs; and
8 (9) the per pupil amount for full-time post-secondary programs
9 of county vocational school districts .

10 The base per pupil amount, the per pupil amounts for full-day
11 preschool, the excess costs for general special education services
12 pupils and for speech-only pupils, and the cost-coefficients for
13 security aid and transportation aid shall be adjusted by the CPI for
14 each of the two school years following the first school year to
15 which the report is applicable.

16 The amounts shall be deemed approved for the three successive
17 fiscal years beginning from the subsequent July 1, unless between
18 the date of transmittal and the subsequent November 30, the
19 Legislature adopts a concurrent resolution stating that the
20 Legislature is not in agreement with all or any specific part of the
21 report. The concurrent resolution shall advise the Governor of the
22 Legislature's specific objections to the report and shall direct the
23 commissioner to submit to the Legislature a revised report which
24 responds to those objections by January 1.

25 (cf: P.L.2007, c.260, s.4)

26

27 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill provides State school aid to districts that provide adult
33 education programs. Under the bill, beginning in the 2015-2016
34 school year, a school district would receive \$1,500 per pupil
35 enrolled in an approved adult high school program, post-graduate
36 program, or post-secondary program offered by a county vocational
37 school district. In subsequent school years, until the submission of
38 the next Educational Adequacy Report, the per pupil aid amount
39 will be inflated by the CPI. In the next Educational Adequacy
40 Report, the Governor would be required to recommend per pupil aid
41 amounts for adult high school and post-graduate programs, as well
42 as a per pupil aid amount for post-secondary programs at county
43 vocational school districts that accounts for the higher cost of such
44 programs.