

ASSEMBLY, No. 4878

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman L. GRACE SPENCER

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

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District 20 (Union)

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Assemblyman Moriarty

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes establishment of recovery high school alternative education programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of recovery high school
2 alternative education programs and supplementing Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Recovery
9 High School Alternative Education Act.”

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11 2. As used in this act:

12 “Alternative education program” means a comprehensive
13 educational program designed to address the individual learning,
14 behavior, and health needs of students who are not succeeding in a
15 general education program or who have been mandated for removal
16 from general education. The alternative education program shall
17 provide a variety of approaches to meet State-adopted standards,
18 including non-traditional programs, services, and methodologies to
19 ensure curriculum and instruction are delivered in a way that
20 enables students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills specified
21 for all students.

22 “Recovery high school alternative education program” means an
23 alternative education program that serves students diagnosed with
24 substance use disorder or dependency as defined by the most recent
25 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and that
26 provides a comprehensive four-year high school education in an
27 alternative public school setting and a structured plan of recovery
28 that is aligned with the national framework of evidence-based
29 practices for recovery high schools.

30
31 3. Any board of education may operate an alternative education
32 program including, but not limited to, a recovery high school
33 alternative education program, upon approval by the board of
34 education. The Commissioner of Education shall approve any
35 alternative education program within a State agency, public college
36 operated program, or department-approved school.

37
38 4. A sending district may enter into an agreement with a school
39 district which has established a recovery high school alternative
40 education program for the provision of services to a student who is
41 currently enrolled in the sending district. If the student is admitted
42 to the recovery high school alternative education program, the
43 sending district shall pay tuition to that district calculated in
44 accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:38-19.

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46 5. The State Board of Education may adopt regulations
47 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
48 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill authorizes a school district to establish alternative
7 education programs, including recovery high school alternative
8 education programs, upon the approval of the board of education.

9 A recovery high school alternative education program is defined as
10 an alternative education program that serves students diagnosed
11 with substance use disorder or dependency as defined by the most
12 recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and
13 that provides a comprehensive four-year high school education in
14 an alternative public school setting and a structured plan of
15 recovery that is aligned with the national framework of evidence-
16 based practices for recovery high schools.

17 Under the bill's provisions, a sending district may enter into an
18 agreement with a school district that has established a recovery high
19 school alternative education program for the provision of services
20 to a student who is currently enrolled in the sending district. If the
21 student is admitted to the recovery high school alternative education
22 program, the sending district will pay tuition to that district.