

SENATE, No. 1276

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Allen

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program in DOE to recruit disadvantaged or minority men to teach in certain failing schools under alternate route program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT establishing a teaching pilot program in the Department of
2 Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Chronically failing school” means any public school that meets
10 the criteria of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2):

11 (1) among all students in that school to whom a State
12 assessment was administered, the percent of students scoring in the
13 partially proficient range in both the language arts and mathematics
14 subject areas of the State assessments exceeded 40% in each of the
15 prior two school years; or

16 (2) among all students in that school to whom a State
17 assessment was administered, the percent of students scoring in the
18 partially proficient range in either the language arts or mathematics
19 subject areas of the State assessment exceeded 65% in each of the
20 prior two school years.

21 “Minority” means a person who is a member of a racial-ethnic
22 group that has been historically disadvantaged in obtaining access
23 to equal educational opportunities.

24 “Eligible participant” means a male resident of New Jersey who
25 is from a disadvantaged or minority background; is interested in
26 pursuing a career as a teacher in New Jersey; and meets eligibility
27 criteria for enrolling in the alternate route teacher preparation
28 program, including the requirements for obtaining a certificate of
29 eligibility under State Board of Education regulations.

30 b. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a pilot
31 program in which the commissioner will recruit eligible participants
32 and match them to teaching opportunities for which they may apply
33 in chronically failing schools under the alternate route teacher
34 preparation program. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to
35 increase the access of disadvantaged or minority men to teaching
36 opportunities and to provide needed high-quality teachers in
37 chronically failing schools in the State.

38 c. The commissioner shall select for participation in the pilot
39 program six chronically failing schools, including, if possible, two
40 schools in each of the northern, central, and southern regions of the
41 State. To the extent possible, the commissioner shall seek a cross
42 section of schools from urban, suburban, and rural areas.

43 d. The commissioner shall establish policies and procedures for
44 the recruitment and selection of eligible participants, and for
45 matching the selected eligible participants to teaching opportunities
46 for which they may apply at the participating schools under the
47 alternate route teacher preparation program.

1 e. Two years following the establishment of the pilot program,
2 the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the
3 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).
4 The report shall contain information on the implementation of the
5 pilot program and shall include the commissioner's
6 recommendation on the advisability of continuing or expanding the
7 program.

8

9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

10

11

12

STATEMENT

13

14 This bill establishes a pilot program in the Department of
15 Education, in which the Commissioner of Education will recruit
16 eligible participants and match them to teaching opportunities for
17 which they may apply in chronically failing schools under the
18 State's alternate route teacher preparation program.

19 Eligible participants will be male residents of New Jersey who
20 are from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds, are interested in
21 pursuing a teaching career in New Jersey, and meet the eligibility
22 criteria for enrolling in the alternate route teacher preparation
23 program, including State Board of Education requirements for
24 obtaining a certificate of eligibility (CE). The purpose of the pilot
25 program is to increase the access of disadvantaged or minority men
26 to teaching opportunities and to provide needed high-quality
27 teachers in chronically failing schools in the State.

28 Under the bill, the commissioner will select six chronically
29 failing schools from throughout the State for participation in the
30 pilot program. Chronically failing schools are defined as public
31 schools that meet the following criteria: (1) among all students in
32 the school to whom a State assessment was administered, the
33 percent of students scoring in the partially proficient range in both
34 language arts and mathematics exceeded 40% in each of the prior
35 two school years; or (2) among all students in the school to whom a
36 State assessment was administered, the percent of students scoring
37 in the partially proficient range in either language arts or
38 mathematics exceeded 65% in each of the prior two school years.
39 The bill directs the commissioner to establish policies and
40 procedures for the recruitment and selection of eligible participants
41 for the program, and for matching the selected participants to
42 teaching opportunities for which they may apply at the participating
43 schools under the alternate route program.

44 The bill requires the commissioner, two years following the
45 establishment of the pilot program, to submit a report to the
46 Governor and the Legislature, which contains information on the
47 implementation of the program and the commissioner's

S1276 RUIZ, TURNER

4

- 1 recommendation on the advisability of continuing or expanding the
- 2 program.