# [First Reprint] SENATE, No. 2770

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

**INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2015** 

Sponsored by: Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem) Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by: Senators Madden, Turner, Oroho, O'Toole and Gordon

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes establishment of tax-exempt Achieving a Better Life Experience accounts for persons with developmental disabilities

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on March 9, 2015, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/19/2015)

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1 AN ACT concerning trust accounts for persons with developmental 2 disabilities, amending P.L.1997, c.237, and supplementing Title 3 30 of the Revised Statutes. 4 5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 6 of New Jersey: 7 8 1. Section 13 of P.L.1997, c.237 (C.54A:6-25) is amended to 9 read as follows: Gross income shall not include earnings on <sup>1</sup>[an 10 13. a. 11 education individual retirement] a Coverdell education savings<sup>1</sup> 12 account, [or] a qualified State tuition program account, or a 13 qualified ABLE account until the earnings are distributed from the 14 account, at which time they shall be includible in the gross income 15 of the distributee except as provided in this section. 16 b. Gross income shall not include qualified distributions as 17 defined in paragraph (3) of subsection c. of this section. 18 c. For purposes of this section: (1) <sup>1</sup>["Education individual retirement account"] <u>"Coverdell</u> 19 <u>education savings account</u><sup>1</sup> means <sup>1</sup> [an education retirement] <u>a</u> 20 Coverdell education savings<sup>1</sup> account as defined pursuant to 21 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of section 530 of the federal Internal 22 Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.530. 23 (2)  ${}^{1}$  [(a)]  ${}^{1}$  "Qualified State tuition program account" means an 24 25 account established pursuant to the "New Jersey Better Educational 26 Savings Trust (NJBEST) Program," (N.J.S.18A:71B-35 et seq.) <sup>1</sup>[, an account established pursuant to the "New Jersey Prepaid Higher 27 28 Education Expense Program," P.L.2001, c.262 (C.18A:71B-64 et 29 seq.)]<sup>1</sup> or an account established pursuant to any qualified State tuition program, as defined pursuant to subsection (b) of section 30 529 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529 31 32 or a tuition credit or certificate purchased pursuant to any such 33 program<u>:</u> 34 <sup>1</sup>[(b) "Qualified ABLE account" means an account established pursuant to P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as 35 36 this bill) or an account established pursuant to any qualified State 37 ABLE program established pursuant to subsection (f) of section 529 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529]<sup>1</sup>. 38 39 (3) "Qualified distribution" means any of the following: 40 (a) a distribution from a qualified State tuition program account that is used for qualified higher education expenses as defined 41 42 pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (e) of section 529 or a 43 distribution from a qualified ABLE account that is used for 44 <u>qualified disability expenses as defined pursuant to paragraph</u> 1(3)of subsection (f) of section 529] (5) of subsection (e) of section 45

**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 <u>thus</u> is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows: <sup>1</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted March 9, 2015.

529A<sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 1 2 s.529 <sup>1</sup> or 529A<sup>1</sup>; (b) a rollover from one account to another account as described 3 4 in clause (i) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of subsection (c) 5 of section 529, <sup>1</sup>[paragraph (4) of subsection (f) of section 529] clause (i) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of 6 7 section 529A<sup>1</sup>, or paragraph (5) of subsection (d) of section 530 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529 8 <sup>1</sup>, <u>529A</u>, <sup>1</sup> or 530; <sup>1</sup><u>or</u><sup>1</sup> 9 (c) a change in designated beneficiaries of an account as 10 described in clause (ii) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of 11 subsection (c) of section 529, <sup>1</sup>[paragraph (4) of subsection (f) of 12 section 529] clause (ii) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of 13 14 subsection (c) of section 529A<sup>1</sup>, or paragraph (6) of subsection (d) of section 530 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 15 U.S.C. s.529 <sup>1</sup>, <u>529A</u>,<sup>1</sup> or 530 <sup>1</sup>[;]. 16 17 (4) "Qualified ABLE account" means an account established 18 pursuant to P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as 19 this bill) or an account established pursuant to any qualified State 20 ABLE Program established pursuant to section 529A of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529A.<sup>1</sup> 21 d. The portion of a distribution from <sup>1</sup> [an education individual 22 retirement] <u>a Coverdell education savings</u><sup>1</sup> account, <u>a qualified</u> 23 24 ABLE account, or a qualified State tuition program account that is 25 attributable to earnings shall be determined in accordance with the 26 principles of section 72 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 27 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.72, as applied for purposes of sections 529 28 <sup>1</sup>, <u>529A</u>, <sup>1</sup> and 530 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. ss.529<sup>1</sup>, 529A,<sup>1</sup> and 530. 29 (cf: P.L.2001, c.262, s.21) 30 31 32 2. (New section) As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending 33 before the Legislature as this bill): <sup>1</sup><u>"ABLE Program" or "program" means the "New Jersey</u> 34 35 Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program" established 36 pursuant to P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as 37 this bill);<sup>1</sup> "Account" means an individual ABLE account established <sup>1</sup>[in 38 39 accordance with by an eligible individual, which is owned by the 40 individual and maintained under the ABLE Program established pursuant to<sup>1</sup> P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as 41 42 this bill); 43 "Contributor" means the person or organization contributing to 44 and maintaining an account and having the right to withdraw funds 45 from the account before the account is disbursed to or for the 46 benefit of the designated beneficiary;

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1 "Designated beneficiary" means: <sup>1</sup>[the] <u>an eligible</u><sup>1</sup> individual 2 <sup>1</sup>[designated at the time the account is opened as the individual whose qualified disability expenses are expected to be paid from the 3 account and the replacement beneficiary if the change in designated 4 5 beneficiary would not result in a distribution that is included in federal gross income under section 529] who establishes and owns 6 7 an ABLE account consistent with the provisions of P.L. 8 ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and c. (C. 9 section 529A<sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>s.529A</u><sup>1</sup>; 10 "Division" means the Division of Developmental Disabilities in 11 12 the Department of Human Services; <sup>1</sup><u>"Eligible Individual" means an eligible individual as defined in</u> 13 14 or for the purposes of section 529A of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529A;<sup>1</sup> 15 "Investment Manager" means the Division of Investment in the 16 17 Department of the Treasury or the private entities authorized to do 18 business in this State that may be designated by the division to 19 invest the funds of the trust pursuant to the terms of 20 P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); 21 "Member of the family" means a member of the family as defined in or for purposes of section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal 22 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup>; 23 "Nonqualified withdrawal" means a withdrawal from an account 24 25 other than: (1) a qualified withdrawal; (2) a withdrawal made as the 26 result of the death or disability of the designated beneficiary of an account; <sup>1</sup>or<sup>1</sup> (3) <sup>1</sup>[a withdrawal made on account of a scholarship 27 (or allowance or payment described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of 28 29 paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of section 135 of the federal Internal 30 Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.135) received by the designated beneficiary, but only to the extent of the amount of that scholarship, 31 allowance or payment; or (4)]<sup>1</sup> a rollover or change in designated 32 beneficiary which would not result in a distribution includible in 33 federal gross income under section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A<sup>1</sup></u> of the federal 34 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup>; 35 <sup>1</sup>["Program" means the "New Jersey Achieving a Better Life 36 Experience 37 (ABLE) established Program" pursuant 38 P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);]<sup>1</sup> "Qualified disability expenses" means expenses described in 39 40 paragraph  ${}^{1}$  [(3) of subsection (f) of section 529] (5) of subsection (e) of section 529A<sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 41 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529]  $\underline{s.529A}^1$ , made for the benefit of an individual 42 with a disability who is a designated beneficiary. A "qualified 43 44 disability expense" shall be related to the beneficiary's disability 45 and shall supplement, but not supplant, impair, or diminish, any benefits or assistance of any <sup>1</sup>[Federal] <u>federal</u><sup>1</sup>, State, or other 46

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1 governmental entity for which the beneficiary may otherwise be 2 eligible or which the beneficiary may be receiving; "Qualified withdrawal" means a withdrawal from an account to 3 pay the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary 4 5 of the account. A qualified withdrawal may be made by an agent of the beneficiary who has power of attorney or by the beneficiary's 6 7 legal guardian; 8 "Trust" means the "New Jersey Achieving a Better Life 9 Experience Trust (ABLE Trust)" established pursuant to section 3 10 ) (pending before the Legislature as this of P.L. , c. (C. 11 bill). 12 3. (New section) Pursuant to the ABLE <sup>1</sup>[program] <u>Program</u><sup>1</sup> 13 14 established by P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), there is created within the Division of Developmental 15 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services the New Jersey 16 17 Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Trust. The ABLE 18 <sup>1</sup>[program] <u>Program</u><sup>1</sup> shall provide a mechanism through which the 19 division, as trustee, holds accounts established and maintained in 20 the ABLE Trust pursuant to the provisions of this act to finance the 21 cost of qualified disability expenses. 22 23 4. (New section) The division shall administer the ABLE 24 Trust. The division shall have the power to: 25 a. serve as trustee of the trust; 26 adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative b. Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to 27 carry out the provisions of P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the 28 29 Legislature as this bill); 30 c. prescribe and provide appropriate forms for participation in 31 the program; 32 d. select an investment manager and any other contractors 33 needed to manage and market the program; 34 e. monitor the investment manager and any other contractors 35 by audits and other reports; 36 collect reasonable administrative fees in connection with any f. 37 contract or transaction relating to the program; 38 g. take all actions required so that the program is treated as a qualified State ABLE <sup>1</sup>[program] <u>Program</u><sup>1</sup> under section <sup>1</sup>[529] 39 529A<sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 40 <sup>1</sup>[s.529] s.529A<sup>1</sup>; and 41 42 h. perform any other acts which may be deemed necessary or 43 appropriate to carry out the objectives and purposes of 44 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). 45 46 5. (New section) Neither the members of the division, nor any 47 officer or employee of the division, shall be liable personally for the

debts, liabilities, or obligations of the ABLE <sup>1</sup>[program] Program<sup>1</sup>

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established pursuant to P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the
 Legislature as this bill).

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4 6. (New section) a. The division shall select an investment 5 manager or managers to invest the funds of the ABLE Trust or the funds in ABLE accounts. In making this selection, any investment 6 7 manager shall be subject to the "prudent person" standard of care applicable to the Division of Investment in the Department of the 8 9 Treasury pursuant to subsection b. of section 11 of P.L.1950, c.270 10 (C.52:18A-89), and the division shall consider the impact of fees 11 and costs imposed by the manager or managers on yield to 12 contributors.

b. The division may select more than one investment manager
and investment instrument for the program if it is in the best interest
of contributors and will not interfere with the administration of the
program.

c. The division may provide a contributor with a choice of
investment managers or investment instruments or both for the
program if both of the following conditions exist:

(1) the federal Internal Revenue Service has provided guidance
that providing a contributor with a choice of investment managers
or instruments under a State ABLE <sup>1</sup>[program] <u>Program</u><sup>1</sup> will not
cause the program to fail to qualify for favorable tax treatment
under section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code
of 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>s.529A</u><sup>1</sup>; and

(2) the division concludes that a choice of investment managers
or of investment instruments is in the best interest of contributors
and will not interfere with the administration of the program.

29 d. If the division terminates the designation of an investment 30 manager to hold accounts, and accounts must be moved from that 31 investment manager to another investment manager, the division 32 shall select the investment manager and type of investment 33 instrument to which the balance of the account is moved, unless the 34 federal Internal Revenue Service provides guidance that allowing 35 the contributor to select among several investment managers or investment instruments that have been selected by the division 36 37 would not cause a program to cease to be a qualified State ABLE <sup>1</sup>[program] <u>Program</u><sup>1</sup> for the purposes of <sup>1</sup>[subsection (f) of]<sup>1</sup> 38 section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 39 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>s.529A</u><sup>1</sup>. 40

e. If the selection process provided for in this section results in
an investment manager other than the Division of Investment, the
division shall provide for the orderly transfer of accounts and shall
ensure that all the rights of the contributors and designated
beneficiaries participating in the program are protected.

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47 7. (New section) a. The ABLE <sup>1</sup>[program] <u>Program</u><sup>1</sup> shall be
48 operated as a trust through the use of accounts for designated

beneficiaries. An account may be opened by <sup>1</sup> [any person who 1 2 desires to save to pay the qualified disability expenses of  $]^1$  an individual by satisfying each of the following 3 <sup>1</sup>eligible<sup>1</sup> 4 requirements: 5 (1) completing an application in the form prescribed by the 6 division; 7 (2) <sup>1</sup> [paying the one-time application fee established by the 8 division; 9 (3)  $\mathbf{J}^1$  making the minimum contribution required by the division for opening an account <sup>1</sup>, which in no case shall be an amount 10 greater than the minimum contribution required by the division for 11 12 opening an account under the NJBEST Program established 13 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-35 et seq.<sup>1</sup>; 14  ${}^{1}$ [(4) designating the account or accounts to be opened; and 15 (5) in the case of an account to which subsection a. of section 8 16 of P.L., c. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) (C. 17 would apply, <u>]</u> and  $(3)^1$  demonstrating to the satisfaction of the division that <sup>1</sup>[either 18 the contributor, if an individual, or  $\mathbf{J}^1$  the designated beneficiary is a 19 New Jersey resident. <sup>1</sup>[The requirement of New Jersey residency 20 for either the contributor or the designated beneficiary would not 21 22 apply to an account to which subsection b. of section 8 of 23 ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) P.L. , c. (C. 24 would apply unless otherwise determined by the division. ]<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup><u>In no case shall a designated beneficiary establish, own, or</u> 25 b. maintain more than one ABLE account at one time. Unless 26 otherwise permitted under section 529A of the federal Internal 27 Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529A, an account subsequently 28 29 established for such beneficiary shall not be treated as an ABLE 30 account. 31 c.  $(1)^{1}$ Contributions to accounts shall be made only in cash, 32 as defined by the division pursuant to regulations, in accordance with section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 33 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>529A.</u> 34 35 (2) Except in the case of contributions under subparagraph (C) 36 of paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of section 529A of the federal 37 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.529A, no contribution 38 may be accepted if it would result in aggregate contributions to the 39 account exceeding the amount in effect under subsection (b) of section 2503 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 40 41 U.S.C. s.2503, for the calendar year in which the taxable year 42 begins<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>[c.] <u>d.</u><sup>1</sup> 43 Contributors may withdraw all or part of the balance 44 from an account on sixty days' notice or a shorter period, as may be 45 authorized by the division pursuant to regulations. The contributor 46 shall provide written notice of the withdrawal to the trustee and to 47 the designated beneficiary.

<sup>1</sup>[d. A contributor may change the] <u>e. (1) The</u><sup>1</sup> designated 1 beneficiary of an account <sup>1</sup>may be changed<sup>1</sup>, provided that the new 2 beneficiary qualifies as a designated beneficiary for the purposes of 3 4 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  ${}^{1}$ [, 5 or rollover all] and such change meets the requirements of, and 6 would not result in a distribution includible in gross income under, 7 section 529A of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 8 <u>U.S.C. s.529A.</u> (2) All<sup>1</sup> or a portion of an account  $^{1}$  may be rolled over<sup>1</sup> to 9 another account, provided that the other account <sup>1</sup> [that meets the 10 requirements of this act, if the change or ] is a qualifying ABLE 11 account that meets the requirements of P.L., c. (C.) 12 13 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and such<sup>1</sup> rollover 14 would not result in a distribution includible in gross income under section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 15 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529, in accordance with procedures established 16 by the division  $] 529A^1$ . 17 <sup>1</sup>[e.] f.<sup>1</sup> Each account shall be maintained separately from 18 19 each other account under the program. 20 1[f.] <u>g.</u>1 Separate records and accounting shall be maintained for  ${}^{1}$ [each] <u>the</u><sup>1</sup> account  ${}^{1}$ [for] <u>of</u><sup>1</sup> each designated beneficiary. 21 <sup>1</sup>[g.] <u>h.</u> (1) A designated beneficiary may, directly or 22 23 indirectly, direct the investment of any contributions to the 24 program, or any earnings thereon, no more than two times in any 25 calendar year.  $(2)^{1}$  A contributor to <sup>1</sup>[or designated beneficiary of any] <u>an</u><sup>1</sup> 26 27 account shall not direct the investment of any contributions to an account or the earnings from the account, except as permitted under 28 section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 29 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup>. 30 '[h.] <u>i.</u>1 A contributor or a designated beneficiary shall not 31 32 use an interest in an account as security for a loan. Any pledge of 33 an interest in an account is of no force and effect. <sup>1</sup>[i.] j.<sup>1</sup> The maximum <sup>1</sup><u>individual</u><sup>1</sup> contribution 34 <sup>1</sup>and maximum aggregate contributions<sup>1</sup> for any designated beneficiary 35 shall be determined by the division pursuant to regulations, in 36 accordance with section <sup>1</sup>[529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal 37 Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. <sup>1</sup>[s.529] <u>529A</u><sup>1</sup>. 38 <sup>1</sup>**[**j.**]** k.<sup>1</sup> Statements, reports on distributions, <sup>1</sup>notices of the 39 establishment of accounts<sup>1</sup> and information returns relating to 40 accounts shall be prepared, distributed, and filed <sup>1</sup>[to the extent 41 required by <u>in accordance with subsection (d) of</u><sup>1</sup> section  ${}^{1}$ [529] 42 529A<sup>1</sup> of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 43 [s.529] <u>s.529A</u><sup>1</sup>, or regulations issued thereunder. 44

<sup>1</sup> [k.] <u>1.</u><sup>1</sup> The division may charge, impose, and collect reasonable administrative fees and service charges in connection with any agreement, contract, or transaction relating to the program. These fees and charges may be imposed directly on contributors or may be taken as a percentage of the investment earnings on accounts.

7 <sup>1</sup>[1.] <u>m.</u><sup>1</sup> The State or any State agency, municipality, or other political subdivision may, by contract or collective bargaining 8 9 agreement, agree with any employee to remit contributions to 10 accounts through payroll deductions made by the appropriate officer 11 or officers of the State, State agency, county, municipality, or 12 political subdivision. The contributions shall be held and 13 administered in accordance with P.L. . c. (C. ) (pending 14 before the Legislature as this bill).

15 ¹**Г**m. A contributor, if an individual, may designate another person as a successor contributor in the event of the death of the 16 17 original contributor. The person who opens the account, or any 18 successor contributor, shall be considered the contributor as defined ) (pending before the 19 in section 2 of P.L. (C. , c. Legislature as this bill).]<sup>1</sup> 20

n. Any person may make contributions to an account,
consistent with <sup>1</sup>subsection c. of this section and<sup>1</sup> the terms
established by the division, after the account is opened.

o. Moneys paid into or out of an ABLE account by or on behalf of a contributor or designated beneficiary for the purposes of financing the cost of qualified disability expenses under P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) are exempt from all claims of creditors of the contributor or the designated beneficiary.

30 p. Subject to any outstanding payments due for qualified disability expenses, in the case that the designated beneficiary dies 31 32 or ceases to be an individual with a disability, all amounts 33 remaining in the qualified ABLE account not in excess of the 34 amount equal to the total medical assistance paid for the designated 35 beneficiary after the establishment of the account, net of any 36 premiums paid from the account or paid by or on behalf of the 37 beneficiary to a Medicaid Buy-In program, shall be distributed to 38 the State upon the State filing a claim for payment. For the 39 purposes of this subsection, the State shall be a creditor of the 40 ABLE account and not a beneficiary. <sup>1</sup>[Paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of 26 U.S.C. s.529 shall not apply to a distribution to the State 41 pursuant to this subsection. ]<sup>1</sup> 42

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8. (New section) a. If the investment manager is the Division
of Investment in the Department of the Treasury, in order to assure
the availability of principal of any amount contributed under
P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
there shall be paid to the division for deposit in the trust, at the time

1 of distribution, subject to appropriation, such sum, if any, as shall 2 be certified by the Director of the Division of Developmental 3 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services as necessary to provide that amount at the time of distribution. The director shall 4 5 make and deliver to the Governor, or the Governor's designee, the 6 certificate stating the sums, if any, required to make available in the 7 trust the amount aforesaid, and the sums so certified shall be 8 appropriated and paid to the division during the then current State 9 fiscal year.

10 b. If the investment manager is a private entity, the investment 11 of the principal and interest of any amount contributed under 12 P.L. , c. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) (C. shall be made in accordance with an investment plan approved by 13 14 the State Investment Council in the Division of Investment. 15

- 16 9. (New section) Annually, the division shall determine a 17 dollar amount of an ABLE account, which shall not be less than 18 \$25,000, which shall not be considered in evaluating the financial 19 needs of a designated beneficiary or be deemed a financial resource 20 or a form of financial aid or assistance to a designated beneficiary, 21 for purposes of determining the eligibility of the beneficiary for any 22 scholarship, grant, or monetary assistance awarded by the State for 23 the purposes of financing the education expenses of the beneficiary, 24 including higher education expenses; nor shall the amount of any 25 account as determined by the division provided for a designated 26 beneficiary under P.L. , c. ) (pending before the (C. 27 Legislature as this bill) reduce the amount of any scholarship grant 28 or monetary assistance which the beneficiary is entitled to be 29 awarded by the State for the purposes of financing education 30 expenses.
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32 10. (New section) Notwithstanding any other provision of State 33 law that requires consideration of one or more financial 34 circumstances of an individual, for the purpose of determining 35 eligibility to receive, or the amount of, any assistance or benefit 36 authorized by such provision to be provided to or for the benefit of 37 such individual, any amount, including earnings thereon, in any 38 ABLE account of such individual, and any distribution for qualified 39 disability expenses shall be disregarded for such purpose with 40 respect to any period during which such individual maintains, makes contributions to, or receives distributions from such ABLE 41 42 account.

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44 11. (New section) a. Nothing in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending 45 before the Legislature as this bill) shall be construed to:

46 (1) guarantee the availability or provision of disability-related 47 services to a designated beneficiary;

(2) establish State residency for a person merely because the
 person is a designated beneficiary; or
 (3) guarantee that amounts saved pursuant to the program will

4 be sufficient to cover the qualified disability expenses of a 5 designated beneficiary.

b. Nothing in P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the
Legislature as this bill) establishes any obligation of this State or
any agency or instrumentality of this State to guarantee for the
benefit of any contributor or designated beneficiary any of the
following:

11 (1) the rate of interest or other return on any account; or

12 (2) the payment of interest or other return on any account.

c. Nothing in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the
Legislature as this bill) establishes any obligation or liability of this
State or any agency or instrumentality of this State with respect to
any federal or State tax liability of any contributor or designated
beneficiary in this program.

d. Under regulations promulgated by the division, every
contract and application that may be used in connection with a
contribution to an account shall clearly indicate that the account is
not insured by this State nor is the investment return guaranteed by
this State.

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24 12. This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup>[upon enactment of the federal

25 "Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2013"] on the 45th day
26 after the date of enactment<sup>1</sup> and section 1 shall apply to
27 contributions made for taxable years beginning after the effective

28 date.