

ASSEMBLY, No. 3607

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 7, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman L. GRACE SPENCER

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Tucker

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Investing in You Promise Neighborhood Commission”; appropriates \$2 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/13/2016)

1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Investing in You Promise
2 Neighborhood Commission,” and making an appropriation.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. There is established the “New Jersey Investing in You
8 Promise Neighborhood Commission,” to examine the effect of
9 poverty on the development of the children in the State’s most
10 fiscally distressed urban and rural areas, and to develop
11 recommendations about how local nonprofits, civic organizations,
12 religious institutions, and institutions of higher education in the
13 State can help to support and improve the lives of children living in
14 these areas.

15 The commission shall consist of 20 members, as follows:

16 a member of the New Jersey Senate, to be named by the
17 President of the Senate;

18 a member of the New Jersey General Assembly, to be named by
19 the Speaker of the General Assembly;

20 the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner’s designee;

21 the Secretary of Higher Education, or the secretary’s designee;

22 a representative of the Housing and Community Development
23 Network of New Jersey;

24 the Mayor of Newark, or the mayor’s designee;

25 the Mayor of Camden, or the mayor’s designee;

26 the Mayor of Trenton, or the mayor’s designee;

27 the Mayor of Paterson, or the mayor’s designee;

28 the Mayor of Vineland, or the mayor’s designee;

29 a representative of the Promise Neighborhood in Newark;

30 a representative of the Promise Neighborhood in Camden;

31 the Executive Director of the Paterson Housing Authority, or the
32 executive director’s designee;

33 the Executive Director of PolicyLink, or the Executive Director’s
34 designee;

35 the Executive Director of the Harlem Children’s Zone, or the
36 executive director’s designee;

37 the President of Thomas Edison State College, or the president’s
38 designee;

39 the President of the College of New Jersey, or the president’s
40 designee;

41 the President of Rowan University, or the president’s designee;

42 the Chancellor of Rutgers University -Newark, or the
43 chancellor’s designee; and

44 the President of Passaic County Community College, or the
45 president’s designee.

46 Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30 days of
47 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
48 Legislature as this bill). Vacancies in the membership of the

1 commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
2 appointments were made.

3 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation
4 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
5 performance of their duties within the limits of funds made
6 available to the commission for its purposes.

7
8 2. a. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable, but
9 not later than 30 days after the appointment of its members. The
10 commission shall select a chairperson from among its members, and
11 shall appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the
12 commission.

13 b. The Office of Legislative Services shall provide such staff
14 and related support services as the commission may require to carry
15 out its work. The commission also shall be entitled to call to its
16 assistance, and avail itself of the services of, the employees of any
17 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
18 or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
19 purposes.

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21 3. It shall be the duty of the commission to:

22 a. Analyze the current status of the State's two federally-
23 designated Promise Neighborhoods, located in Newark and
24 Camden, and the impact of those Promise Neighborhoods on the
25 residents of those municipalities, and to create a report describing
26 its successes, identifying areas in which the program needs to
27 improve, determining whether it is possible to expand the program
28 to other municipalities in the State, and if so, identifying funding
29 that would be available to do so;

30 b. Create a master action plan to expand the number of Promise
31 Neighborhoods in the State by 2017, with a focus on Trenton,
32 Paterson, and Vineland. The plan shall outline the strategies and
33 target the logistics specific to the expansion throughout the State of
34 the program; and

35 c. Design a plan for the creation of a Promise Neighborhood
36 that will replicate, guide, and provide technical assistance for all
37 programs throughout the State, and a plan for the efficient use of
38 federal or State funds that may be allocated for the expansion of the
39 Promise Neighborhood Initiative in New Jersey.

40

41 4. The commission shall issue a report of its findings and
42 recommendations concerning the study described in section 3 of
43 this act, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
44 Speaker of the General Assembly, no later than 12 months after the
45 commission organizes.

46

47 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the "New
48 Jersey Investing in You Promise Neighborhood Commission,"

1 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
2 before the Legislature as this bill), the sum of \$2,000,000 to be
3 credited to the commission to effectuate the provisions of
4 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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6 6. This act shall take effect immediately and the commission
7 shall expire on the 30th day next following the submission of its
8 report.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill would establish the “New Jersey Investing in You Promise
14 Neighborhood Commission” to examine the effect of poverty on the
15 development of the children in the State’s most fiscally distressed
16 urban and rural areas, and to develop recommendations about how
17 local nonprofits, civic organizations, religious institutions, and
18 institutions of higher education in the State can help to support and
19 improve the lives of children living in these areas. The bill makes a \$2
20 million appropriation for the operation of the commission.