

ASSEMBLY, No. 4501

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywomen
Vainieri Huttle and Murphy**

SYNOPSIS

Directs Juvenile Justice Commission to establish arts education pilot program for juvenile offenders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/8/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning arts education programs for juvenile offenders
2 and supplementing P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-169 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Juvenile Justice Commission, created pursuant to
8 section 2 of P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-170), shall establish an arts
9 education pilot program to be administered by the commission
10 pursuant to the provisions of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
11 before the Legislature as this bill). The commission shall consult
12 with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in the Department of
13 State in the development, operation, administration, and evaluation
14 of the pilot program. The pilot program shall provide for the
15 development of three model arts education programs to deliver
16 innovative arts-based programming for juvenile offenders in
17 detention and correction facilities in this State during a five-year
18 period. The model programs, which shall be developed through
19 organizational partnerships including, but not limited to, State and
20 local arts organizations, community-based agencies, philanthropic
21 entities, and the private sector, shall have the following goals:

22 (1) to prepare juvenile offenders for educational achievement by
23 developing imagination, reasoning, judgment and the critical
24 thinking skills necessary for problem solving and decision making;

25 (2) to develop an arts-infused program based on
26 interdisciplinary and thematic units;

27 (3) to broaden the role of the teacher through staff development
28 to include such diverse roles as instructor, coach, mentor and
29 exemplar;

30 (4) to improve student performance as determined by standard
31 measures and alternative assessment strategies;

32 (5) to enhance student self-concept as determined by measures
33 of self-esteem;

34 (6) to encourage understanding of traditional, local and diverse
35 cultures;

36 (7) to integrate program activities with professional and
37 community-based arts organizations; and

38 (8) to further evaluate and research arts education and its impact
39 on the positive development and rehabilitation of juvenile
40 offenders.

41 b. The commission shall forward a request for proposals for the
42 development of arts-based programs under this act to all appropriate
43 agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, all State
44 and local arts organizations in this State. An organization which
45 wants to participate in the pilot program shall submit a proposal to
46 the commission. The proposal shall outline the organization's plan
47 for arts-based programming for juvenile offenders to enhance
48 positive development, excellence, student motivation, and self-

1 esteem. The proposal shall include, but not be limited to, the
2 following information:

- 3 (1) the specific elements of the proposed arts programming;
4 (2) the content, techniques, and materials to be used to advance
5 the organizational ability, critical thinking, problem solving,
6 creative, and other skills of the juvenile offenders participating in
7 the program;
8 (3) the manner in which professional development experiences
9 in the arts will be factored into the program design; and
10 (4) the funding sources for the program for a five-year period.

11 c. The commission shall select three programs to participate in
12 the pilot program based upon the commission's evaluation of the
13 organization's ability to successfully implement model arts-based
14 programming. The selection process shall include visits to potential
15 organizations to ascertain their commitment and ability to develop
16 and implement arts-based programming specifically for juvenile
17 offenders.

18 d. The commission shall provide for the inclusion of an
19 evaluation component within the pilot program. The assessment
20 methods designed to evaluate the model programs shall be based on
21 best practices for assessing arts-based programming for juvenile
22 offenders and youth, specifically their educational outcomes and
23 student progress in problem solving, comprehension, critical
24 thinking and reasoning, and positive development. During the initial
25 four years of the pilot program each model program shall undergo
26 an annual evaluation conducted by the commission. After the
27 program's fourth year, the commission shall submit to the
28 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
29 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), an evaluation of the pilot program and a
30 recommendation on the advisability of its continuation and
31 expansion within the State.

32 e. The Juvenile Justice Commission, in consultation with the
33 New Jersey State Council on the Arts, shall adopt, pursuant to the
34 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
35 seq.), the rules and regulations necessary to implement the
36 provisions of this act.

37
38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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41 STATEMENT

42
43 This bill directs the Juvenile Justice Commission to establish an
44 arts education pilot program for juvenile offenders in this State.

45 Under the bill, in consultation with the New Jersey State Council
46 on the Arts, the commission would oversee the development,
47 operation, administration, and evaluation of the pilot program. The
48 pilot program would involve the development of three model arts

1 education programs to deliver innovative arts-based programming
2 for juvenile offenders in detention and correction facilities during a
3 five-year period. The model programs would be developed through
4 organizational partnerships including, but not limited to, State and
5 local arts organizations, community-based agencies, philanthropic
6 entities, and the private sector, and would be self-funded. The
7 commission would select three programs to participate in the pilot
8 program based upon the organization's ability to successfully
9 implement model arts-based programming.

10 The bill requires the commission to include an evaluation
11 component within the pilot program based on best practices for
12 assessing arts-based programming for juvenile offenders and youth,
13 specifically their educational outcomes and student progress in
14 problem solving, comprehension, critical thinking and reasoning,
15 and positive development. During the initial four years of the pilot
16 program each model program would undergo an annual evaluation
17 conducted by the commission. After the program's fourth year, the
18 commission would submit to the Governor and the Legislature an
19 evaluation of the pilot program and a recommendation on the
20 advisability of its continuation and expansion within the State.