

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4657**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes youth apprenticeship pilot program in Department of Education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2018)**

1 AN ACT establishing a three-year youth apprenticeship pilot  
2 program.

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

6  
7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-  
8 year youth apprenticeship pilot program to provide high school and  
9 college students between the ages of 16 and 21 an opportunity to  
10 develop valuable work skills while continuing their traditional  
11 education program. The goal of the pilot program shall be to  
12 prepare students to enter the workforce by providing some of the  
13 on-site employment training and related classroom instruction  
14 needed to obtain a license or certification for a skilled occupation.

15 b. A school district or institution of higher education which  
16 wants to participate in the program shall submit a proposal to the  
17 commissioner which outlines the district's or institution's plan to  
18 offer intensive career counseling and a customized learning  
19 experience to participating students.

20 c. The commissioner shall select two districts in each of the  
21 southern, central, and northern regions of the State to participate in  
22 the program and shall seek a cross section of school districts from  
23 urban, suburban, and rural areas of the State. The commissioner  
24 shall also select, in collaboration with the Secretary of Higher  
25 Education, four institutions of higher education to participate in the  
26 program.

27  
28 2. A participating school district or institution of higher  
29 education shall:

30 a. provide each participating student with intensive career  
31 counseling on career paths in the skilled trades and other fields that  
32 may offer apprenticeship opportunities;

33 b. ensure that a participating student has the flexibility needed  
34 to meet the demands of both the apprenticeship program and the  
35 academic program in which the student is enrolled; and

36 c. develop and implement, in collaboration with the approved  
37 employers selected pursuant to section 3 of this act, a class-based  
38 curriculum that complements and reinforces the work skills and  
39 knowledge developed through the student's apprenticeship  
40 experience.

41  
42 3. a. The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
43 Department of Labor and Workforce Development, shall develop:

44 (1) a list of approved employers with worksites near the  
45 participating school districts and institutions of higher education  
46 that have agreed to participate in the pilot program; and

47 (2) the process which shall be utilized for matching students to  
48 apprenticeship opportunities with the approved employers.

1       b. An approved employer shall pay a participating student an  
2 appropriate wage commensurate with the position held by the  
3 student, and shall offer periodic opportunities for performance  
4 review and wage increases, as appropriate.

5       c. An approved employer shall award an industry-recognized  
6 credential to a student upon his successful completion of the  
7 program.

8  
9       4. Each participating school district or institution of higher  
10 education shall select its program participants. A student selected  
11 to participate in the program shall:

12       a. complete work-based training under the supervision of an  
13 approved employer;

14       b. complete the class-based curriculum developed pursuant to  
15 subsection c. of section 2 of this act; and

16       c. be awarded credit toward a high school diploma or a  
17 postsecondary credential, as applicable, for the work-based training  
18 and classroom instruction completed pursuant to this section.

19  
20       5. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the Commissioner of  
21 Education shall submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to  
22 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature. The  
23 report shall contain information on the implementation of the pilot  
24 program including, but not limited to:

25       a. the number of students who participated in and who  
26 completed the program from each participating school district and  
27 institution of higher education;

28       b. wage information regarding payments disbursed to students  
29 participating in the program;

30       c. feedback from students participating in the program on ways  
31 to improve the program;

32       d. the types of workforce skills and training that participating  
33 students acquired;

34       e. the number of students retained by employers following  
35 program completion; and

36       f. the commissioner's recommendation on the feasibility of  
37 implementing the program on a Statewide basis.

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39       6. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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42                                   STATEMENT  
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44       This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a  
45 three-year youth apprenticeship pilot program to provide high  
46 school and college students between the ages of 16 and 21 an  
47 opportunity to develop valuable work skills while continuing their  
48 traditional education program. Under the bill, a school district or

1 institution of higher education that wants to participate in the  
2 program must submit a proposal to the commissioner which outlines  
3 the district's or institution's plan to offer intensive career counseling  
4 and a customized learning experience to participating students. The  
5 commissioner is directed to select two districts in each of the  
6 southern, central, and northern regions of the State and to select, in  
7 collaboration with the Secretary of Higher Education, four  
8 institutions of higher education to participate in the program.

9 Under the bill, a participating school district or institution of  
10 higher education must:

- 11 • provide each participating student with intensive career  
12 counseling on career paths in the skilled trades and other fields that  
13 may offer apprenticeship opportunities;
- 14 • ensure that a participating student has the flexibility needed  
15 to meet the demands of both the apprenticeship program and the  
16 academic program in which the student is enrolled; and
- 17 • develop and implement a class-based curriculum that  
18 complements and reinforces the work skills and knowledge  
19 developed through the student's apprenticeship experience.

20 The bill directs the Department of Education, in consultation  
21 with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, to  
22 develop: a list of approved employers that have agreed to  
23 participate in the pilot program; and the process to be utilized for  
24 matching students to apprenticeship opportunities with the approved  
25 employers. The bill further provides that an approved employer  
26 must pay a participating student an appropriate wage commensurate  
27 with the position held by the student, and must offer periodic  
28 opportunities for performance review and wage increases, as  
29 appropriate. An approved employer must award an industry-  
30 recognized credential to a student upon his successful completion of  
31 the program.

32 Under the bill, each participating school district or institution of  
33 higher education will select its program participants. A student  
34 selected to participate in the program must complete work-based  
35 training under the supervision of an approved employer and must  
36 complete the class-based curriculum developed for the program. A  
37 participating student will be awarded credit toward a high school  
38 diploma or a postsecondary credential, as applicable, for the work-  
39 based training and classroom instruction completed through the  
40 program.

41 The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to submit a  
42 report to the Governor and the Legislature on the implementation of  
43 the pilot program and his recommendation on the feasibility of  
44 implementing the program on a Statewide basis.