

SENATE, No. 1848

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Creates priority hiring pool for public school employment of certain individuals who were previously employed in school districts that experienced reduction in State school aid.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning public school hiring practices and
2 supplementing chapter 27 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Eligible individual” means an individual who was formerly
10 employed in a school district and whose position was eliminated as
11 a result of the school district experiencing a reduction in State
12 school aid pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-
13 67 et al.). In order for a teacher, principal, assistant principal, or
14 vice-principal to qualify as an “eligible individual,” he shall have
15 received an effective rating on his most recent annual evaluation.

16 “Priority hiring pool” means a Statewide list of eligible
17 individuals who shall be provided an opportunity to interview for
18 vacant public school positions pursuant to the provisions of this
19 section.

20 b. The Department of Education shall create and maintain a
21 priority hiring pool consisting of a current list of all eligible
22 individuals, as defined in subsection a. of this section, throughout
23 the State. In the event that a school district which has experienced
24 an increase in State school aid pursuant to the provisions of
25 P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.) has a vacant position, an
26 eligible individual who is a member of the priority hiring pool and
27 who is qualified for the particular vacant position shall be provided
28 an opportunity to interview for the position before the school
29 district may consider applicants who are not members of the
30 priority hiring pool.

31 c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the
32 seniority rights of an individual for reemployment in a school
33 district pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.18A:28-11 and
34 N.J.S.18A:28-12, or any other provision of law.

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill would create a Statewide priority hiring pool comprised
42 of individuals who were formerly employed in school districts and
43 whose positions were eliminated as a result of the school district
44 experiencing a reduction in State school aid under the provisions of
45 P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.). Under the bill, when a school
46 district that has experienced an increase in State school aid under
47 that same law has a vacant position, an individual who is a member
48 of the priority hiring pool and who is qualified for the particular

S1848 GOPAL

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1 vacant position must be given an opportunity to interview for the
2 position before the school district may consider applicants who are
3 not members of the priority hiring pool. The bill would not affect
4 the seniority rights established under existing law at N.J.S.18A:28-
5 11 and N.J.S.18A:28-12 for the reemployment of a teacher in a
6 school district who was previously dismissed by the district due to a
7 reduction of force.