

**SENATE, No. 2827**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED AUGUST 17, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Singleton**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires teachers to biennially complete two hours of professional development related to cultural competence.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning professional development for public school  
2 teachers and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey 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. The State Board of Education shall, as part of the  
9 professional development requirement established by the State  
10 board for public school teachers, require each teacher to complete  
11 two hours of instruction in cultural competency in each two-year  
12 period. This instruction shall assist a teacher to successfully teach  
13 students from cultures which are different than the teacher's own  
14 culture. The instruction shall include, but shall not be limited to, a  
15 discussion of: personal and interpersonal awareness and  
16 sensitivities; acts of microaggression in the classroom; and implicit  
17 bias.

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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22 STATEMENT

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24 State Board of Education regulations at N.J.A.C.6A:9-15.4  
25 require all active teachers in a school district to complete a  
26 minimum of 20 hours of approved professional development each  
27 year. This bill requires the board, as part of the professional  
28 development requirement, to require each public school teacher to  
29 complete two hours of instruction in cultural competency in each  
30 two-year period. The instruction must include, but need not be  
31 limited to, a discussion of: personal and interpersonal awareness  
32 and sensitivities; acts of microaggression in the classroom; and  
33 implicit bias.