

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3216

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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Sponsored by:

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District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

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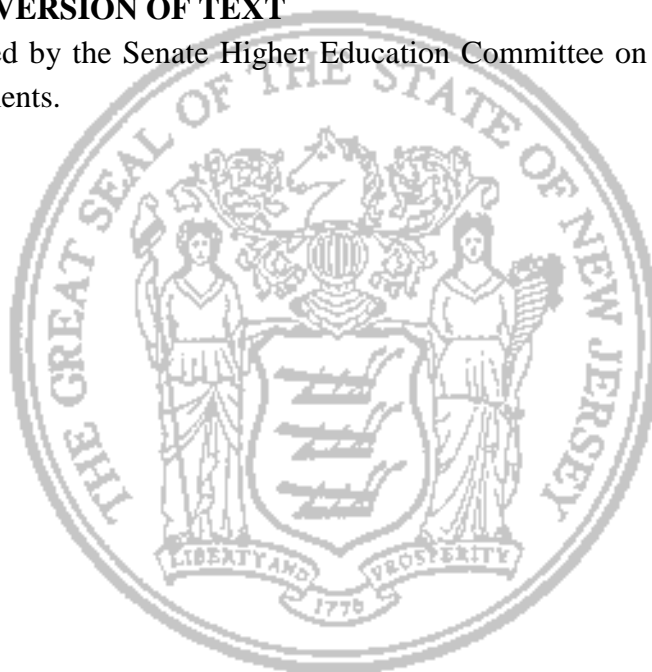
Senators Corrado, Singleton, Testa, Cunningham and Gopal

SYNOPSIS

“Manufacturing in Higher Education Act”; requires various State entities to promote manufacturing career pathways for students and provides assistance to manufacturing industry.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on June 15, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of the manufacturing industry in
2 higher education and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes, Title 34 of the Revised Statutes, and Title 52 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

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

8
9 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
10 “Manufacturing in Higher Education Act.”

11
12 2. a. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with
13 the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Labor and
14 Workforce Development, the New Jersey Council of County
15 Colleges, the New Jersey Council of County Vocational Schools,
16 and representatives of the business community, shall design a
17 manufacturing career pathway to be offered through the county
18 colleges and county vocational school districts to provide students
19 interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing with the instruction
20 and skills necessary to gain employment in the manufacturing or
21 advanced manufacturing sectors.

22 b. The manufacturing career pathway required pursuant to
23 subsection a. of this section shall include traditional and advanced
24 manufacturing processes and methods of production including, but
25 not limited to, the machinery, technology, tools, and equipment
26 used in a wide range of manufacturing industries.

27
28 3. a. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with
29 the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the
30 New Jersey Economic Development Authority, shall establish the
31 New Jersey STEM Entrepreneur Fellowship Program in county
32 colleges and four-year institutions of higher education.

33 b. The secretary shall work in consultation with the New Jersey
34 Economic Development Authority and the Commissioner of Labor
35 and Workforce Development to fund no less than 20 fellowships,
36 administered by the secretary, which focus on supporting
37 entrepreneurs in the Science, Technology, Engineering and
38 Mathematics (STEM) fields. The fellowships may be provided to
39 individuals who have proven to the secretary that they have an idea
40 to create, advance or develop a product in the STEM field which
41 will have a beneficial impact on society and will result in a self-
42 sustaining business in the future.

43 The fellowships shall be issued for three years each and shall be
44 used primarily to support the entrepreneurs in commercializing the
45 idea and developing a well-structured business.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHI committee amendments adopted June 15, 2021.

1 Priority will be given to fellowships which are submitted with
2 the support of an incubator supported by the State of New Jersey or
3 any of its public entities.

4 c. The secretary, in consultation with the New Jersey
5 Economic Development Authority, shall conduct an evaluation of
6 the effectiveness of the New Jersey STEM Entrepreneur Fellowship
7 Program to establish new businesses no later than five years after
8 the approval of the first fellowship.

9
10 4. a. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish ¹and
11 administer¹ a “Higher Education Manufacturing Grant Program.”
12 The program shall ¹be administered by a three-person commission
13 which shall include: the Secretary of Higher Education, or a
14 designee, who shall serve as chair of the commission; a
15 representative of the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension
16 Program; and a representative of the New Jersey Community
17 College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development.
18 The commission shall¹ annually award \$10 million to New Jersey
19 ¹public¹ institutions of higher education ¹, proprietary
20 institutions, and county vocational school districts¹ for the purpose
21 of establishing or expanding programs in the manufacturing fields.
22 The grants shall be allocated ¹to public institutions of higher
23 education¹ on a competitive basis ¹and shall be distributed as
24 follows:

25 (1) 50 percent of program funding shall be awarded to county
26 colleges;

27 (2) 25 percent of program funding shall be awarded to four-year
28 institutions of higher education and proprietary institutions; and

29 (3) 25 percent of program funding shall be awarded to county
30 vocational school districts¹.

31 b. A ¹public institution of higher education that receives a
32 grant under the program] grant recipient¹ shall use the funds to
33 establish or expand programs and curricula in the fields of
34 manufacturing, manufacturing engineering, or advanced
35 manufacturing.

36 c. To be eligible for consideration of a grant award, ¹a public]
37 an¹ institution of higher education ¹, proprietary institution, or
38 county vocational school district¹ shall submit an application to the
39 ¹Secretary of Higher Education] commission¹, in accordance with
40 application procedures and requirements prescribed by the
41 secretary. A grant application shall include a complete description
42 of the ¹institution’s] applicant’s¹ specific plans and objectives for
43 the use of the grant funds and any other information specified by
44 the secretary.

45 d. The ¹secretary] commission, in accordance with any rules
46 prescribed by the secretary,¹ shall establish selection criteria for the

1 awarding of grant funds under the program, and shall award grants
2 through a competitive process based upon review of the
3 applications and subject to the availability of funds. The
4 **1[secretary] commission¹** shall establish the amount for each grant
5 that is approved.

6 ¹e. As used in this section, “proprietary institution” shall be
7 limited to proprietary institutions that have received accreditation
8 from an accrediting body recognized by the United States
9 Department of Education.¹

10
11 5. a. There is created within the Office of the Secretary of
12 Higher Education a fund to be known as the “Higher Education
13 Manufacturing Grant Fund.” The fund shall be used to provide
14 grants to New Jersey **1[public]¹** institutions of higher education ¹,
15 proprietary institutions, and county vocational school districts¹
16 under the “Higher Education Manufacturing Grant Program”
17 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
18 before the Legislature as this bill).

19 b. The fund shall be annually credited with money appropriated
20 by the State, any moneys received by the State from corporate
21 donors or other private sector support, and any federal funds which
22 may become available for higher education and manufacturing-
23 related purposes.

24
25 6. The Secretary of Higher Education shall adopt rules and
26 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the
28 purposes of section 2 through section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.)
29 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

30
31 7. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
32 Secretary of Higher Education, the Business Action Center in the
33 Department of State, the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension
34 Program, and representatives of business and industry, shall
35 establish and maintain a State-recognized list of industry-
36 recognized credentials in the advanced manufacturing field to assist
37 county vocational school districts, institutions of higher education,
38 and the workforce development system in developing appropriate
39 educational programs to enable students to more adequately meet
40 the advanced technical training needs in this field.

41 b. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
42 Secretary of Higher Education, the Business Action Center in the
43 Department of State, the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension
44 Program, and representatives of business and industry, shall identify
45 courses of study for careers in emerging manufacturing industries,
46 including careers in industrial marketing, mechanical engineering,
47 computer science, electronics, and mechatronics.

1 8. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the
2 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, shall
3 designate an employee of the Department of State to act as a liaison
4 between the State and manufacturing businesses located in this
5 State. The duties of the liaison shall be to assist manufacturing
6 businesses by:

7 a. advertising manufacturing businesses' products or services
8 nationally and internationally through the Business Action Center in
9 the Department of State; and

10 b. establishing a business referral service where manufacturing
11 businesses may be referred to other State, federal, or private
12 business resource organizations, such as the New Jersey
13 Manufacturing Extension Program, the State's Small Business
14 Development Centers, and other business organizations that provide
15 specialized business development assistance, technology
16 information, consulting management, and customized one-to-one
17 counseling concerning business plans and technical assistance with
18 significant business topics and issues.

19

20 9. a. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the
21 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the New
22 Jersey Economic Development Authority, and other State
23 departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities, shall
24 direct resources, create incentives, and provide technological,
25 financial, and workforce development opportunities for
26 manufacturing businesses.

27 b. The Secretary of State may call upon any department,
28 authority, commission, board, office, division, or agency of the
29 State to provide any information, resources, or other assistance
30 deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)
31 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). This may include, but
32 not be limited to: the New Jersey Economic Development Authority
33 for assistance with manufacturing business funding assistance
34 programs; the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
35 for assistance with developing workforce development strategies for
36 manufacturing businesses; the Department of Transportation and
37 the New Jersey Transit Corporation for assistance with enhancing
38 public transportation operations for employees of manufacturing
39 businesses; the Business Action Center in the Department of State
40 for assistance with manufacturing business attraction, retention, and
41 expansion efforts and advising on smart growth development
42 strategies; and the Department of Community Affairs for assistance
43 to manufacturing businesses participating in the urban enterprise
44 zone program established by P.L.1983, c.303 (C.52:27H-60 et al.).

45

46 10. a. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority, in
47 consultation with the Business Action Center created in the
48 Department of State and an institution of higher education, may

1 designate an institution of higher education or other entity as a
2 manufacturing and production business resource center to provide
3 services and assistance to manufacturing businesses to assist them
4 to modernize, maximize their efficiency, and expand their
5 production through the development and commercialization of
6 innovative products.

7 b. The authority shall grant this designation to any institution
8 of higher education or other entity that meets qualifications
9 established by the authority. The authority shall base the
10 qualifications upon the ability of the institution or entity to provide
11 specialized services and information to manufacturing and
12 production facilities, which may include specialization in discrete
13 aspects of the manufacturing and production process, or to provide
14 more comprehensive services.

15 c. The authority shall refer a manufacturing business deemed
16 eligible by the authority to a manufacturing and production business
17 resource center or other organization qualified to provide services
18 to small and mid-sized manufacturing businesses, which services
19 shall include, but not be limited to:

20 (1) assistance with product development, including:

21 (a) a preliminary technical evaluation of a product and any
22 design and materials issues,

23 (b) assistance in providing a connection with available research
24 and development resources, prototype development resources, and
25 product evaluation and testing resources, and

26 (c) the selection, implementation and optimization of available
27 technologies;

28 (2) assistance in production planning and inventory control;

29 (3) assistance in identifying appropriate factory and office
30 automation and modernizing production capacity;

31 (4) assistance in identifying sources of supply, including any
32 Internet-based listing of New Jersey-based suppliers of goods and
33 services;

34 (5) assistance in establishing a quality assurance program;

35 (6) assistance with market analysis and development, including
36 assistance in identifying export opportunities, provided by the
37 Business Action Center;

38 (7) assistance with distribution issues;

39 (8) assistance in developing the skills of the existing workforce
40 or procuring skilled workers;

41 (9) referral to financing resources; and

42 (10) assistance in preliminary patent and trademark searches.

43

44 11. a. There is created in the New Jersey State Employment
45 and Training Commission, established pursuant to section 5 of
46 P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-2), the New Jersey Advanced
47 Manufacturing Council.

1 b. The council shall consist of 11 members who are individuals
2 with experience in the fields of labor, education, or workforce
3 development or training. The 11 members shall be appointed by the
4 Governor as follows: two members shall be recommended by the
5 Senate President; two members shall be recommended by the
6 Speaker of the General Assembly; one member shall be
7 recommended by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member
8 shall be recommended by the Minority Leader of the General
9 Assembly; and, five members shall be recommended by the
10 Governor. The members shall be appointed for five-year terms,
11 except, of the members first appointed, four members shall be
12 appointed for five-year terms, four member shall be appointed for
13 three-year terms, and three members shall be appointed for four-
14 year terms. Each member shall hold office for the term of
15 appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualified. A
16 member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of
17 the council for any reason other than the expiration of the term shall
18 have a term of appointment for the unexpired term only. Vacancies
19 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A
20 member may be appointed for any number of successive terms. Any
21 member appointed may be removed from the council by the
22 appointing authority, as the case may be, for cause, after a hearing
23 and may be suspended by the appointing authority pending the
24 completion of the hearing.

25 c. Members of the council shall serve without compensation,
26 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
27 performance of their duties as members. Action may be taken and
28 motions and resolutions may be adopted by the council at a council
29 meeting by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members. The
30 council shall elect from its members a chairperson. Advanced
31 notification for, and copies of the minutes of, each meeting of the
32 council shall be filed with the Governor, the President of the
33 Senate, and the Speaker of the General Assembly.

34

35 12. The council shall:

36 a. convene and enable industry-led, private-public partnerships
37 focused on engaging New Jersey institutions of higher education in
38 manufacturing innovation;

39 b. design and implement an advanced manufacturing initiative
40 to facilitate collaboration and information sharing across State
41 departments and agencies;

42 c. assist private companies to enhance technological transfer in
43 New Jersey manufacturing industries to help companies overcome
44 technical obstacles to scaling up production of new technologies;
45 and

46 d. submit an annual report to the Governor, to the Legislature
47 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the
48 State Employment and Training Commission, of its assessments and

1 recommendations to enhance State policy related to the advanced
2 manufacturing industry in New Jersey.

3

4 13. The council is authorized to:

5 a. hold public hearings;

6 b. employ staff, responsible to the Executive Director of the
7 State Employment and Training Commission, to assist the council
8 to implement the purposes of this act; and

9 c. avail itself of the services of the employees and have access
10 to the records of any instrumentality of the State, as necessary or
11 useful to implement the purposes of this act.

12

13 14. This act shall take effect immediately.