

ASSEMBLY, No. 418

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen KELLY and DiGAETANO

1 AN ACT establishing a commission to develop guidelines for public
2 school instruction in American and New Jersey labor history and
3 making an appropriation therefor.

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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 Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. American labor history, in general, and New Jersey labor history,
10 in particular, provide an understanding of the essential contribution of
11 workers to the economic development of our nation and this State;

12 b. Instruction in labor history, with a special emphasis on the
13 changing nature of work and its contingent skills and required
14 education levels, is important in increasing the awareness of educators
15 and students concerning the changes that have taken place in the
16 nature of work and the skills and education required to participate
17 successfully in today's work force;

18 c. Instruction focusing on American labor history and the labor
19 history of New Jersey takes place today in the State's public schools
20 only on a random basis; and

21 d. It is important, therefore, that a commission be established to
22 systematically review current instruction in American and New Jersey
23 labor history in the State's public schools and provide curriculum
24 guidelines for the development of a program or programs of
25 instruction in American and New Jersey labor history for use in New
26 Jersey public schools.

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28 2. a. There is hereby established a commission for the purpose of
29 developing curriculum guidelines for a program or programs of
30 instruction in American and New Jersey labor history which shall be
31 available for use in all public schools in this State. For the purposes
32 of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph
33 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the commission is allocated within
34 the State Department of Education, but notwithstanding this
35 allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision or

1 control by the department or any board or officer thereof. The State
2 Department of Education shall supply the staff necessary to
3 accomplish the commission's objectives.

4 b. The commission shall consist of 16 members: two from the
5 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, no more than
6 one of whom shall be of the same political party; two from the General
7 Assembly to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, no
8 more than one of whom shall be of the same political party; the
9 Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Labor, the
10 Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, the
11 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Botto House American
12 Labor Museum and the Director of the Institute of Management and
13 Labor Relations, Rutgers, the State University, ex-officio, or their
14 designees; and seven persons to be appointed by the Governor, one
15 of whom shall be from the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, one from the
16 New Jersey State Industrial Union Council, one from the New Jersey
17 Education Association, one from the New Jersey State Federation of
18 Teachers, one from the New Jersey Business and Industry Association,
19 one from the New Jersey Library Association and one from the New
20 Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. Members of the commission
21 appointed from the Senate and the General Assembly shall serve
22 during their terms of office. Members appointed by the Governor shall
23 serve for three years. A vacancy occurring shall be filled in the same
24 manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve without
25 compensation.

26 c. The Commissioner of Education shall convene the commission
27 within 30 days of notification by the Governor that the Governor,
28 President of the Senate and Speaker of the General Assembly have
29 made their appointments to the commission. At its first meeting the
30 commission shall elect a chairperson and such other officers as it
31 considers appropriate. The commission shall meet upon the call of the
32 chairperson or of a majority of the commission members. The
33 presence of a majority of the authorized membership of the
34 commission shall be required for the conduct of official business.

35 d. The commission shall report to the Commissioner of Education
36 and the appropriate committees of the Legislature on an annual basis.
37 The report shall include, but not be limited to, information on:

38 (1) The commission's progress on the development of guidelines
39 for American and New Jersey labor history curriculum; and

40 (2) The extent to which local school districts are providing
41 instruction in American and New Jersey labor history based on the
42 commission's guidelines.

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44 3. a. The commission, in developing its curriculum guidelines,
45 shall conduct an investigation which shall include, but not be limited
46 to, the following:

1 (1) A survey of school districts in the State to determine the
2 content of and the extent to which labor history instruction is currently
3 offered in elementary and secondary schools;

4 (2) A survey of other states, as selected by the commission, to
5 determine the content of and the extent to which labor history
6 instruction is currently offered in the public schools of those states;
7 and

8 (3) A survey of information concerning labor history in New Jersey
9 giving special attention to the changing nature of work and the
10 associated required skills and education levels necessary for successful
11 participation in the State's work force.

12 b. The commission shall develop the means by which curricula
13 developed from its guidelines can be implemented in local school
14 districts in this State.

15 c. The development of the guidelines for curriculum and the means
16 of implementing curricula developed from those guidelines pursuant
17 to subsections a. and b. of this section, shall not constitute a mandate
18 requiring local school boards to include instruction in American or
19 New Jersey labor history in their course offerings.

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21 4. a. The commission is authorized to call upon any department,
22 office, division or agency of the State, or of any county, municipality
23 or school district of the State, to supply such data, program reports
24 and other information, personnel and assistance as it deems necessary
25 to discharge its responsibilities under this act.

26 b. These departments, offices, divisions and agencies shall, to the
27 extent possible and not inconsistent with any other law of this State,
28 cooperate with the commission and shall furnish it with such
29 information, personnel and assistance as may be necessary or helpful
30 to accomplish the purposes of this act.

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32 5. There is appropriated \$35,000 from the General Fund to the
33 Department of Education to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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35 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire three years
36 following the effective date.

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39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill establishes a commission to investigate and develop
42 guidelines for a program or programs of instruction on American and
43 New Jersey labor history which are to be available for use in all public
44 schools in this State. The bill requires the commission to include in
45 the guidelines a special emphasis on labor history in New Jersey and
46 on the changing nature of work. The emphasis on the changing nature

1 of work is intended to highlight the shift to the more sophisticated
2 educational requirements necessary for successful participation in the
3 work force of a high tech society.

4 The establishment of these guidelines does not mandate local school
5 boards to include instruction in American or New Jersey labor history.

6 The commission would be in, but not of, the State Department of
7 Education. The department is required to supply the staff necessary
8 to accomplish the commission objectives. The commission is to
9 consist of 16 members: two Senators appointed by the President; two
10 Assemblypersons appointed by the Speaker; the Commissioner of
11 Education, the Commissioner of Labor, the Executive Director of the
12 New Jersey Historical Commission, the Chairman of the Board of
13 Directors of the Botto House American Labor Museum and the
14 Director of the Institute of Management and Labor Relations, or their
15 designees; and seven members appointed by the Governor consisting
16 of a member of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, a member of the New
17 Jersey Industrial Union Council, a member of the New Jersey
18 Education Association, a member of the New Jersey State Federation
19 of Teachers, a member of the New Jersey Business and Industry
20 Association, a member of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
21 and a member of the New Jersey Library Association. Members would
22 serve without compensation.

23 The commission is required to report to the Commissioner of
24 Education and the appropriate committees of the Legislature on an
25 annual basis on the commission's progress on the development of
26 guidelines for an American and New Jersey labor history curriculum
27 and the extent to which local school districts are providing instruction
28 in American and New Jersey labor history based on those guidelines.

29 The bill also provides for an appropriation of \$35,000 and that the
30 provisions of the bill would expire in three years.

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35 Establishes a commission to develop guidelines for public school
36 instruction in American and New Jersey labor history; appropriates
37 \$35,000.