

## ASSEMBLY, No. 523

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman CRECCO

1   **AN ACT** concerning residential school programs for pupils with  
2   disciplinary problems and supplementing chapter 47 of Title 18A of  
3   the New 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. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a residential  
9   school pilot program for pupils age 15 or over with disciplinary  
10   problems. The primary goal of the program is to foster self-control,  
11   self-respect, maturity, teamwork and improved study habits in order  
12   to positively influence the pupil's behavior and help prevent future  
13   disciplinary problems. The residential school program shall offer  
14   instruction within a highly structured routine of discipline, intensive  
15   regimentation, military-style drill and ceremony, physical activity, and  
16   self-improvement counselling. The program shall be no longer than 60  
17   days nor shorter than 45 days in length. All teaching staff members  
18   employed by the school shall hold appropriate State certification and  
19   class sizes shall not exceed 10 pupils per class.

20       b. Any pupil age 15 or over who has been subject to suspension or  
21   expulsion from school pursuant to N.J.S.18A:37-2 on three occasions  
22   shall be immediately expelled from school by the board of education  
23   on each subsequent occasion, in a manner consistent with procedural  
24   due process, and shall be evaluated by a review committee consisting  
25   of a classroom teacher, the school principal or his designee, the school  
26   psychologist, a member of the school's child study team and a local  
27   law enforcement officer. The review committee shall evaluate the  
28   pupil to determine if it is in the pupil's best interest to attend the  
29   residential program established pursuant to subsection a. of this  
30   section. If the committee determines that it is in the pupil's best  
31   interest to attend the program, the pupil shall not be eligible to return  
32   to school until satisfactory completion of the residential program.

33       This subsection shall not apply to any pupil who is classified as in  
34   need of special education services when the residential program is not  
35   consistent with the pupils individualized educational program. In

1 addition, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil  
2 who is denied admission to the residential program due to lack of  
3 space.

4 c. For the 1994-95 through 1995-96 school years the  
5 Commissioner of Education shall establish one residential school  
6 program pursuant to subsection a. of this section which shall have the  
7 capacity to enroll at least 250 pupils in each school year. The  
8 Commissioner of Education shall report to the Legislature no later  
9 than January 1, 1996 on the effectiveness of the residential school pilot  
10 program and make recommendations as to whether the program  
11 should be continued or expanded. The pilot program will terminate on  
12 June 30, 1996.

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14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to establish a  
20 "boot camp" style residential school pilot program for pupils age 15 or  
21 over with disciplinary problems. Any pupil who has been subject to  
22 suspension or expulsion on three occasions will be immediately  
23 expelled from school. The pupil will then be evaluated by a review  
24 committee consisting of a classroom teacher, the school principal or  
25 his designee, the school psychologist, a member of the school's child  
26 study team and a local law enforcement officer to determine if it is in  
27 the pupil's best interest to attend the residential program. If the  
28 committee finds it is in the pupil's best interests to attend the  
29 residential program, the pupil will be eligible to return to school upon  
30 satisfactory completion of the residential program. However, this  
31 provision will not apply if no space is available in the program or if the  
32 program is inconsistent with the pupil's individualized educational  
33 program.

34 The residential school program will offer instruction based on a  
35 highly structured routine of discipline, intensive regimentation,  
36 military-style drill and ceremony, physical activity, and  
37 self-improvement counselling in order to foster self-control,  
38 self-respect, maturity, teamwork and improved study habits in the  
39 pupil. The program shall be no longer than 60 days nor shorter than  
40 45 days in length; all teaching staff members employed by the school  
41 must hold appropriate State certification and class sizes will not  
42 exceed 10 pupils per class.

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- 3 Establishes on pilot basis a "boot camp" style residential school  
4 program for pupils with disciplinary problems.

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