

ASSEMBLY, No. 951

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman FELICE

1 AN ACT concerning vocational education and supplementing  
2 P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.).

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

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7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Vocational  
8 Student Opportunities Act."

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10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that vocational education is  
11 one important component of the mix of educational opportunities  
12 offered to our students, that recent changes in high school graduation  
13 requirements adopted by the State Board of Education make it very  
14 difficult for students to attend vocational programs, that high school  
15 graduation requirements should accurately reflect the academic  
16 content of vocational education courses, and that students should be  
17 afforded the opportunity to acquire both a solid mastery of needed  
18 academic skills and valuable vocational training.

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20 3. The Department of Education shall establish a standardized  
21 process for the evaluation of each vocational and technical education  
22 program offered by county vocational schools and local area  
23 vocational technical schools for the purpose of identifying the  
24 mathematics and science skills that are taught in the program. Any  
25 student who satisfactorily completes a vocational or technical course  
26 or program which is determined to contain appropriate mathematics  
27 and science skills shall receive credit toward meeting high school  
28 graduation requirements for mathematics or science established by  
29 statute or regulation.

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31 4. The Department of Education shall provide technical assistance,  
32 including inservice training, to any vocational or technical education  
33 program which has been determined not to be teaching mathematics  
34 and science skills which can be credited for high school graduation  
35 pursuant to section 3 of this act and which program seeks to modify

1 its curriculum in order for its courses to be credited toward the  
2 mathematics or science high school graduation requirements.

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4 5. No student shall be denied admission to, nor be precluded from  
5 attending, a vocational or technical education program offered by a  
6 county vocational school or local area vocational technical school  
7 solely because that student has not received a passing grade on the  
8 State graduation proficiency test.

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10 6. A county vocational school district or a local area vocational  
11 technical school may elect to offer an approved remedial education  
12 program for any student who is enrolled in a vocational program and  
13 who has not received a passing grade on the State graduation  
14 proficiency test. This program, if approved by the commissioner, shall  
15 satisfy the requirement for remedial instruction established by section  
16 3 of P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-3). For a student attending a local  
17 area vocational technical school on a part-time basis, the remedial  
18 education program may be offered by the vocational school in  
19 conjunction with the student's high school of attendance. For a  
20 student attending a county vocational school on a part-time basis, the  
21 remedial education program may be offered by the vocational school  
22 in conjunction with the student's local district.

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24 7. A county vocational school which is providing remedial  
25 education, pursuant to the provisions of section 6 of this act, shall be  
26 eligible to receive State compensatory education aid pursuant to  
27 section 20 of P.L.1975, c.212 (C.18A:7A-20) in addition to other  
28 State funds to which it may be entitled pursuant to section 24 of that  
29 act (C.18A:7A-24). When a vocational school provides a remedial  
30 program in conjunction with a local district, the Commissioner of  
31 Education shall determine the appropriate distribution of State  
32 compensatory education aid money between the county vocational  
33 school district and the local district.

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35 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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40 This bill, the "Vocational Student Opportunities Act", modifies the  
41 State high school graduation requirements and procedures to facilitate  
42 the successful completion of programs offered by vocational schools.  
43 The bill provides that a student in a county vocational school or local  
44 area vocational technical school can receive a State endorsed high  
45 school diploma without completing the course requirements  
46 established by the State Board of Education provided that the student

1 demonstrates mastery of the core subject matter in each curricular area  
2 and satisfies all other graduation requirements, including passage of  
3 the high school proficiency test.

4 The bill directs the State Department of Education to evaluate each  
5 vocational and technical program to identify the mathematics and  
6 science skills taught. A student who successfully completes a course  
7 or program which is identified as containing the appropriate skills shall  
8 receive credit toward high school graduation requirements in  
9 mathematics or science. The bill also directs the department to  
10 provide technical assistance, including inservice training to vocational  
11 or technical training programs to permit the program to alter the  
12 curriculum in order to meet the mathematics and science requirements.

13 The bill also provides that a student shall not be denied admission  
14 to a vocational education program because the student has failed to  
15 pass the graduation test. The bill authorizes the county vocational  
16 schools to offer remedial programs, on their own or in conjunction  
17 with local high schools, and to receive State compensatory education  
18 aid.

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23 "Vocational Student Opportunities Act" which facilitates successful  
24 completion of vocational school programs.