

ASSEMBLY, No. 1540

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Assemblywoman ALLEN, Assemblymen DeSOPO, Gregg, Assemblywoman Crecco, Assemblymen Blee, LeFevre, Malone, Cottrell, Assemblywoman Bark, Assemblyman Bodine, Assemblywoman J. Smith, Assemblymen Bucco, Asselta, Arnone, Azzolina, Rocco, Assemblywoman Wright and Assemblyman Garrett

1 AN ACT concerning the rehabilitation of inmates and supplementing  
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. Whenever a person is sentenced to a term of imprisonment  
8 in a State correctional facility, the Department of Corrections shall,  
9 upon assuming custody of the person, review the person's background  
10 and educational history and assign, if appropriate, an educational  
11 requirement the person must fulfill as a condition of release.

12 For the purposes of this section the department may require either:

13 (1) A curriculum which, depending upon the term of  
14 imprisonment, shall either enable the inmate to attain a level of  
15 educational achievement comparable to high school graduation and  
16 prepare him to secure the high school equivalency certificate that may  
17 be obtained through the Department of Education's Office of Adult  
18 and Continuing Education or enable him to progress toward that level  
19 of achievement; or

20 (2) A vocational skills training program which is designed to  
21 improve the inmate's basic vocational skills or develop specialized  
22 labor skills with the aim of providing the inmate with the necessary  
23 skills to secure employment when released; or

24 (3) A program combining an education curriculum as set forth in  
25 paragraph (1) and vocational training as set forth in paragraph (2).

26 b. An inmate who does not fulfill the educational requirement  
27 imposed pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall not be eligible  
28 for release; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed  
29 to preclude the release of an inmate if the inmate has not been offered  
30 the classes or training necessary to satisfy the educational requirement.

31 c. In accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative  
32 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the

1 Commissioner of Corrections, in consultation with the Commissioner  
2 of Education and the Commissioner of Labor, as appropriate, shall  
3 promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.  
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5 2. This act shall take effect ninety days following enactment.  
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8 STATEMENT  
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10 This bill would require a person sentenced to a term of  
11 imprisonment in a State correctional institution to fulfill, if  
12 appropriate, an educational requirement while imprisoned in order to  
13 be eligible for release.

14 Under the provisions of this bill, the Department of Corrections  
15 upon assuming custody of a prison, would review the person's  
16 background and educational history and determine the appropriate  
17 educational requirement for the person. That requirement would be  
18 either a curriculum designed to give the inmate an opportunity to  
19 attain a General Equivalency Diploma (GED); a vocational skills  
20 training program or a program combining education and vocational  
21 training.

22 An inmate assigned an educational requirement would not be  
23 eligible for release until the fulfillment of that requirement but an  
24 inmate could not be denied release if the classes or training necessary  
25 to satisfy the educational requirement were not offered to the inmate.  
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30 Directs the Department of Corrections to assign inmates educational  
31 requirements as a condition of release where appropriate.