

ASSEMBLY, No. 2450

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 1996

By Assemblyman MALONE, Assemblywoman BARK,
Assemblymen Cottrell and Bodine

1 AN ACT concerning the educational programs of county vocational
2 schools and county colleges and supplementing Title 18A of the
3 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 county vocational school and the county college in each
9 county in which both entities exist shall form an alliance which shall
10 consist of six members: three members to be appointed by the
11 superintendent of the county vocational school and three members to
12 be appointed by the president of the county college. The members of
13 the alliance shall serve at the pleasure of the respective appointing
14 authority.

15 b. The purpose of the alliance shall be to:

16 (1) Review approved occupational programs at the county
17 vocational school, associate degree programs at the county college and
18 existing noncredit postsecondary courses offered by both the county
19 vocational school and the county college to increase the cost efficiency
20 and avoid unnecessary duplication of the programs and courses, and
21 any equipment, facilities or personnel associated with the programs
22 and courses;

23 (2) Develop plans to offer occupational programs and associate
24 degree programs, and noncredit postsecondary courses,
25 collaboratively, where feasible, in order to eliminate duplication
26 wherever possible;

27 (3) Review any proposals by the county vocational school or the
28 county college to implement new noncredit postsecondary courses. If
29 any member of the alliance raises issues of unnecessary duplication or
30 expense in regard to a proposed course, the alliance shall resolve the
31 issue according to the procedures set forth in subsection c. of this
32 section; and

33 (4) Provide advice and information promptly to guide students to
34 all available resources and opportunities, in order to assist students in
35 locating the appropriate training programs so that the students are able
36 to move into the workforce without undue delay.

1 c. In the case of a new noncredit postsecondary course, if a member
2 of the alliance raises an issue of unnecessary duplication or expense in
3 regard to the proposed course, the alliance shall attempt to resolve
4 the issue within the framework of the local Workforce Investment
5 Board's workforce investment plan. If the issue cannot be resolved
6 by the alliance, the alliance shall seek the advice of the local
7 Workforce Investment Board, or a designated subgroup of the board.
8 If the issue continues to be unresolved after the advice of the local
9 Workforce Investment Board has been sought, the issue may be
10 brought to a State-level committee composed of the Commissioner of
11 Education, the Executive Director of the Commission on Higher
12 Education, the Director of the State Employment and Training
13 Commission, or their designees, to review the information presented,
14 as well as the advice of the local Workforce Investment Board, and
15 issue a decision.

16 d. As used in this section, the "Workforce Investment Board"
17 means a local board established pursuant to Executive Order No. 36
18 of 1995.

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20 2. The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher
21 Education shall assess the progress of the alliances and report the
22 results to the Governor and Legislature by January, 1998.

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24 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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29 This bill requires that the county vocational school and the county
30 college in each county in which both entities exist form an alliance
31 consisting of six members: three to be appointed by the
32 superintendent of the county vocational school and three to be
33 appointed by the president of the county college. The purpose of the
34 alliance is to:

35 - Review various programs and courses offered by the county
36 vocational school and the county college, including occupational
37 programs, associate degree programs and noncredit postsecondary
38 courses;

39 - Develop plans to offer occupational programs, associate degree
40 programs and noncredit postsecondary courses collaboratively, where
41 feasible; and

42 - Provide advice and information promptly to guide students to all
43 available resources and opportunities in regard to training programs.

44 In the case of the review of proposed new noncredit postsecondary
45 courses, the bill provides that if any member of the alliance objects to
46 the offering of a course because of unnecessary duplication or

1 expense, the alliance will attempt to resolve the issue within the
2 framework of the local Workforce Investment Board's workforce
3 investment plan. The bill further provides that if the alliance, using the
4 workforce investment plan, cannot resolve the issue, then the
5 Workforce Investment Board's advice must be sought. If the issue
6 continues to be unresolved, then a State- level committee composed
7 of the Commissioner of Education, the Executive Director of the
8 Commission on Higher Education and the Director of the State
9 Employment and Training Commission must issue a decision on the
10 matter.

11 Local Workforce Investment Boards were established pursuant to
12 Executive Order No. 36 of 1995 by Governor Whitman. These boards
13 are intended to coordinate existing federal, State and local workforce
14 readiness policies and programs into a single system. Pursuant to the
15 Executive Order these boards are required to generate local
16 workforce investment plans that must include, as one of the many
17 components of the plan, the development of an integrated service
18 delivery system, which would include programs at the county
19 vocational schools and the county colleges to serve the needs of the
20 local population.

21 The bill requires that the Department of Education and the
22 Commission on Higher Education will assess the progress of the
23 alliances and report the results to the Governor and the Legislature by
24 January, 1998.

25 This bill represents the recommendations contained in the final
26 report of the Commission on Higher Education and Department of
27 Education Staff Working Group on Community College/County
28 Vocational School Mission Differentiation and Collaboration, dated
29 September 4, 1996.

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34 Establishes alliances between county vocational schools and county
35 colleges.