

SENATE, No. 730

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senator BUBBA

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 shall be to foster
11 self-control, self-respect, maturity, teamwork and improved study
12 habits in order to positively influence the pupil's behavior and help
13 prevent future disciplinary problems. The residential school program
14 shall offer instruction within a highly structured routine of discipline,
15 intensive regimentation, military-style drill and ceremony, physical
16 activity, and self-improvement counselling. The program shall be no
17 longer than 60 days nor shorter than 45 days in length. All teaching
18 staff members employed by the school shall hold appropriate State
19 certification and 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
36 addition, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil
37 who is denied admission to the residential program due to lack of

1 space.

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

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12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

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

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45 Establishes on pilot basis a "boot camp" style residential school
46 program for pupils with disciplinary problems.