

SENATE, No. 1245

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Senators CONNORS, McNAMARA and Bubba

1 AN ACT to reestablish the Lloyd McCorkle Training School for Boys
2 and Girls at Skillman and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 30 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature hereby finds that:

9 a. In October, 1991, the Department of Corrections announced it
10 would close the Lloyd McCorkle Training School for Boys and Girls
11 at Skillman which housed the State's youngest institutionalized
12 inmates. These inmates were transferred to already overcrowded
13 community-based residential programs or other juvenile institutions.
14 The school's teachers, counselors and corrections officers were
15 transferred to other facilities or institutions in the department.

16 b. The McCorkle School served approximately 200 juvenile
17 delinquents, aged 12 through 17, by offering a comprehensive program
18 of basic academic education, vocational and technical training,
19 substance abuse treatment, and counseling in a secure and disciplined
20 atmosphere.

21 c. Because of the excellence of its program of academic education,
22 the McCorkle School was the only corrections institution in New
23 Jersey accredited by the New Jersey Department of Education and one
24 of only five corrections institutions in the nation accredited by the
25 American Correctional Association and the Correctional Education
26 Association, permitting the juvenile inmates to earn high school credits
27 toward a diploma or GED while serving their sentences.

28 d. Community-based residential programs, which are not always
29 secure enough to prevent escapes, do not necessarily have the
30 comprehensive range of accredited academic classes, vocational and
31 technical training, drug and alcohol treatment and counseling services
32 that were offered at the McCorkle School.

33 e. A significant need exists in this State for an institution which,
34 like the McCorkle School, is capable of providing a centralized facility
35 for secure custodial care, education and rehabilitation for certain of the
36 youngest juvenile offenders.

1 2. The Legislature, therefore, declares that the future well-being
2 and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders in this State is being
3 jeopardized for the sake of illusory budgetary savings and that the
4 McCorkle Training School for Boys and Girls should be reestablished
5 at Skillman.

6
7 3. The Commissioner of Corrections is hereby directed to
8 reestablish the Lloyd McCorkle Training School for Boys and Girls at
9 Skillman exclusively as a facility for juvenile offenders. The
10 Commissioner is further directed to restore the administrative,
11 custodial and supervisory functions of this school and to provide for
12 a daily program which shall include, but not be limited to, accredited
13 academic classes, vocational and technical training, and drug and
14 alcohol treatment and counseling services which were previously
15 offered at the school.

16
17 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
18 after enactment, except that the Commissioner of Corrections may
19 take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be
20 necessary upon enactment for the implementation of this act.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 The Lloyd McCorkle Training School for Boys and Girls was
26 closed in 1991-92 by the Department of Corrections for budgetary
27 reasons. This bill directs the Commissioner of Corrections to
28 reestablish the school with the same range of custodial care and
29 rehabilitation and education programs that existed before it was
30 closed. This action is based on the Legislature's finding that the Lloyd
31 McCorkle Training School provided an invaluable range of educational
32 and rehabilitative services to juvenile offenders that cannot be
33 duplicated in other settings.

34

35

36

37

38 Reestablishes the Lloyd McCorkle Training School for Boys and Girls
39 at Skillman.