

SENATE, No. 1551

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 AN ACT concerning the Sheltered Workshop Support program in the
2 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

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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. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the
9 Department of Labor administers and funds extended employment
10 services for adults with severe disabilities through the Sheltered
11 Workshop Support program and is currently funding 2,573 sheltered
12 workshop slots; however, approximately 320 slots in sheltered
13 workshops are not being funded by this division or any other division
14 of State government;

15 b. The number of unfunded sheltered workshop clients may be
16 much greater than 320 as more than one individual can occupy a slot,
17 or year of service; yet, there are no names attached to the unfunded
18 slots and thus there is no "waiting list;"

19 c. The number of unfunded slots in sheltered workshops is likely
20 to continue to rise with escalating program costs and without
21 additional funding; and

22 d. Although individuals are receiving services through sheltered
23 workshops despite a lack of State funding, these and other individuals
24 may eventually be denied services by sheltered workshop programs if
25 this trend of unfunded slots, escalating program costs and nearly level
26 State funding continues, resulting in an increasing number of
27 underserved individuals with severe disabilities.

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29 2. a. The Commissioner of Labor shall prepare and submit a plan
30 to the Governor and the Legislature within 180 days after the effective
31 date of this act to address and provide State funding for all unfunded
32 sheltered workshop clients.

33 b. The plan shall include:

34 (1) A determination of the current number of unfunded clients,
35 funded clients and funded client years and a projection of the number
36 of individuals with severe disabilities requiring extended employment
37 services through the Sheltered Workshop Support program over the

1 next 10 years;

2 (2) Program evaluation data including program costs and the rate
3 of reimbursement to providers by the State; and

4 (3) Financial information on the amount of additional State funds
5 that may be required annually to provide reimbursement for the more
6 than 300 sheltered workshop slots that are currently unfunded, while
7 maintaining a reimbursement rate sufficient for the delivery of a quality
8 program.

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10 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill directs the Commissioner of Labor to prepare and submit
16 a plan to the Governor and the Legislature to address and provide
17 State funding for all unfunded clients in sheltered workshop programs
18 administered by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in
19 the Department of Labor.

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24 Requires Commissioner of Labor to develop and submit plan to
25 address unfunded sheltered workshop clients.