

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1068**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

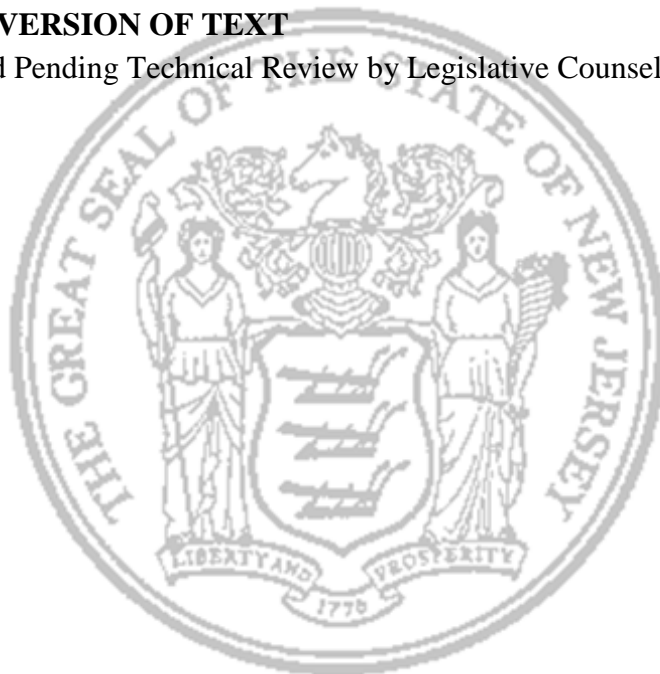
**Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Stanley and Assemblywoman Carter**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot program for certain low-income households.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/2/2021)**

1    **AN ACT** concerning school readiness and workforce development  
2       and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3       Statutes.

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

7  
8       1. There is established in the Department of Education a five-  
9       year two-generational school readiness and workforce development  
10      pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to foster family  
11      economic self-sufficiency in low-income households by delivering  
12      academic and job readiness support services across two generations  
13      in the same household. Households may include, but need not be  
14      limited to, mothers, fathers, noncustodial parents, and other primary  
15      caregivers. The pilot program shall be located in municipalities  
16      designated by the Commissioner of Education which have a poverty  
17      rate that is at least twice the Statewide average poverty rate. The  
18      pilot sites shall work together as a learning community, informed by  
19      members of low-income households within the pilot sites, peer-to-  
20      peer exchanges, and technical assistance in best practices.

21  
22      2. The two-generational school readiness and workforce  
23      development pilot program shall serve as a blueprint for a  
24      Statewide, two-generational school readiness and workforce  
25      development model. The pilot program may include opportunities  
26      for Statewide learning, in addition to the pilot sites, in two-  
27      generational system building and policy development. The pilot  
28      program shall be funded by the State and any available private  
29      moneys. The annual amount of State funds appropriated to the pilot  
30      program shall not exceed \$1,500,000. The pilot program shall  
31      include:

32       a. early learning programs, adult education, child care,  
33       housing, job training, transportation, financial literacy, and other  
34       related support services including, but not limited to, health and  
35       mental health services, offered at one location, wherever possible;

36       b. development of a long-term plan to adopt a two-generational  
37       model for the delivery of the services described in subsection a. of  
38       this section on a Statewide basis. The plan shall include, but need  
39       not be limited to, the targeted use of Temporary Assistance for  
40       Needy Families (TANF) funds, to the extent permissible under  
41       federal law, to support two-generational programming, and State  
42       grant incentives for private entities that develop two-generational  
43       programming;

44       c. partnerships between State and national philanthropic  
45       organizations, as available, to provide the pilot sites and the  
46       interagency working group established pursuant to section 3 of this  
47       act, with technical assistance in the phase-in and design of model

1 two-generational programs and practices, an evaluation plan, and a  
2 Statewide replication and implementation of the program; and

3 d. a workforce liaison to gauge the needs of employers and  
4 households in each community and help coordinate the two-  
5 generational program to meet the needs of such employers and  
6 households.

7  
8 3. The pilot program shall be overseen by an interagency  
9 working group that shall include, but need not be limited to, the  
10 Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Labor and  
11 Workforce Development, Human Services, Children and Families,  
12 Community Affairs, Transportation, and Health, or their designees;  
13 the Secretary of Higher Education, or the secretary's designee; one  
14 member of the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens  
15 Committee appointed by the President of the Senate; one member of  
16 the Assembly Appropriations Committee appointed by the Speaker  
17 of the General Assembly; one public member representing a  
18 business or trade organization appointed by the Majority Leader of  
19 the Senate; one public member with expertise on issues concerning  
20 children and families appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
21 General Assembly; one member of the Senate Transportation  
22 Committee appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one  
23 member of the Assembly Education Committee appointed by the  
24 Minority Leader of the General Assembly; not more than a total of  
25 six persons from low-income households selected by the agency  
26 coordinating services at each pilot site; representatives of nonprofit  
27 and philanthropic organizations and scholars who are experts in  
28 two-generational programs and policies; and other business and  
29 academic professionals as needed to achieve goals for two-  
30 generational systems planning, evaluations, and outcomes.

31  
32 4. The coordinators of the two-generational programs in each  
33 community in the pilot program and any organization serving as a  
34 fiduciary for the program shall report on a quarterly basis to the  
35 interagency working group information deemed necessary by the  
36 working group.

37  
38 5. The interagency working group shall submit a report four  
39 years following the effective date of this act to the Governor, and  
40 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-  
41 19.1), that includes information on:

- 42 a. the parent-informed strategies selected for success;  
43 b. the challenges and opportunities in working with a parent  
44 and child concurrently to promote school and workforce success;  
45 c. the changes in policy, program, budget, or communication  
46 on the local and State levels necessary to achieve the goals of the  
47 program;

- 1 d. child, parent, and family outcomes in the area of school  
2 readiness and school success, as determined by the interagency  
3 working group in consultation with State and national evaluators;  
4 e. workforce readiness, work success, and family support  
5 outcomes, as determined by the interagency working group in  
6 consultation with State and national evaluators;  
7 f. the cost of the program in both State and private funds; and  
8 g. recommendations to expand the program to additional  
9 communities.

10  
11 6. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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14 STATEMENT  
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16 This bill establishes in the Department of Education a five-year  
17 two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot  
18 program. The purpose of the program is to foster family economic  
19 self-sufficiency in low-income households by delivering academic  
20 and job readiness support services across two generations in the  
21 same household. The Commissioner of Education will designate  
22 the municipalities that participate in the pilot program which must  
23 be municipalities that have a poverty rate that is at least twice the  
24 Statewide average poverty rate.

25 Under the bill, the pilot program will include services such as:  
26 early learning programs; adult education; child care; housing; job  
27 training; transportation; financial literacy; and other related support  
28 services such as health and mental health services.

29 The program will include a long-term plan to adopt a model for  
30 the delivery of these services on a Statewide basis. The pilot  
31 program will foster partnerships between State and national  
32 philanthropic organizations to provide technical assistance in the  
33 phase-in and design of the two-generational programs and practices  
34 model, an evaluation plan, and a Statewide replication and  
35 implementation of the program. The pilot program will include a  
36 workforce liaison to gauge the needs of employers and households  
37 in each community and help coordinate the two-generational  
38 program to meet the needs of these employers and households.

39 The bill establishes an interagency working group to oversee the  
40 pilot program that will include:

- 41 • the Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Labor  
42 and Workforce Development, Human Services, Children and  
43 Families, Community Affairs, Transportation, and Health and  
44 the Secretary of Higher Education, or their designees;  
45 • four members of the New Jersey State Legislature;  
46 • one public member representing a business or trade  
47 organization, appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

- 1       • one public member with expertise on issues concerning
- 2       children and families, appointed by the Majority Leader of
- 3       the General Assembly;
- 4       • not more than a total of six persons from low-income
- 5       households from the pilot sites;
- 6       • representatives of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations
- 7       and scholars; and
- 8       • other business and academic professionals as needed to
- 9       achieve goals for two-generational systems planning,
- 10      evaluations, and outcomes.

11      The coordinators of the program sites and any organization  
12      serving as fiduciary for the program will report on a quarterly basis  
13      to the working group on such information as the working group  
14      deems necessary.

15      Four years following the bill's effective date, the working group  
16      will submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature that  
17      includes information on program outcomes and a recommendation  
18      on program expansion.