

ASSEMBLY, No. 1068

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

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

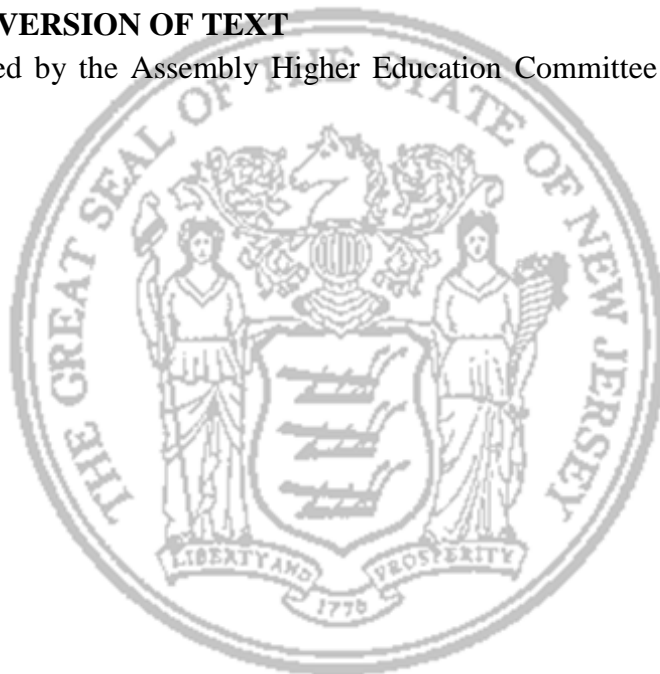
Stanley and Assemblywoman Carter

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee with technical review.



(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.