

ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 699

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 13, 2021

The Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 699.

This bill requires members of the panel of arbitrators maintained by the Commissioner of Education to receive training related to cultural diversity and bias.

Under current law, the commissioner maintains a panel of 50 permanent arbitrators to hear and decide tenure charge matters. Following the enactment of P.L.2019, c.45, each arbitrator is required to receive training on conduct unbecoming of an employee, which training is currently required to include issues related to allegations of sexual assault and child abuse.

Under this bill, the training on conduct unbecoming of an employee would also be required to include issues related to cultural diversity and bias. The bill also provides that any arbitrator serving on the permanent panel as of the enactment of the bill would be required to complete the cultural diversity and bias training within 18 months of the date of enactment.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5245, which was also reported by the committee on this date.