

SENATE, No. 3654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

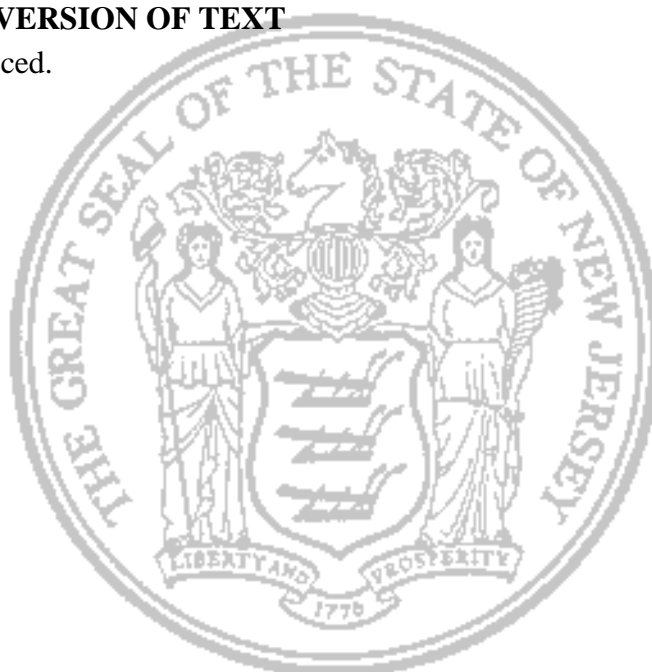
Senators T.Kean and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Amistad Curriculum Award Program for teachers who perform exemplary service providing instruction on slavery and African-American history; appropriates \$5,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/13/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the Amistad Curriculum Award Program,
2 supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes, and making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish the
9 “Amistad Curriculum Award Program.” The purpose of the program
10 is to identify outstanding educators for special recognition who
11 have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the
12 African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in
13 this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our
14 society.

15 b. The commissioner shall invite school districts, charter
16 schools, and renaissance school projects to submit nominations, on
17 an application to be developed by the commissioner, by February 1
18 of each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for
19 efforts to:

20 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
21 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
22 development of New Jersey and the United States;

23 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
24 who previously may not have learned about past and living
25 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
26 positive impacts upon the American story; and

27 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
28 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
29 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
30 study may be replicated by other educators.

31 c. Recipients of the Amistad Curriculum Award shall be named
32 annually by the Amistad Curriculum Award Committee. The
33 committee shall be an ad hoc committee, the members of which
34 shall be appointed annually. The committee shall be comprised of
35 the following members:

36 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

37 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
38 Senate;

39 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
40 Speaker of the General Assembly;

41 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
42 Association; and

43 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
44 Supervisors Association.

45 d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to
46 receive the Amistad Curriculum Award: one teacher from a school
47 that provides instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through
48 eight; and one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any

1 of the grades nine through 12. Recipients of this award shall each
2 receive \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

3
4 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
5 \$5,000 to the Department of Education to implement the provisions
6 of this act.

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8 3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
9 following the date of enactment.

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill establishes the “Amistad Curriculum Award Program.”
15 The purpose of the program is to identify outstanding educators for
16 special recognition who have shown a commitment to furthering
17 student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America,
18 the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of
19 African-Americans to our society.

20 Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance
21 school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be
22 developed by the commissioner, by February 1 of each year of an
23 exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

24 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
25 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
26 development of New Jersey and the United States;

27 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
28 who previously may not have learned about past and living
29 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
30 positive impacts upon the American story; and

31 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
32 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
33 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
34 study may be replicated by other educators.

35 Recipients of the Amistad Curriculum Award will be named
36 annually by the Amistad Curriculum Award Committee. The
37 committee will be an ad hoc committee, the members of which will
38 be appointed annually. The committee will consist of:

39 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

40 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
41 Senate;

42 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
43 Speaker of the General Assembly;

44 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
45 Association; and

46 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
47 Supervisors Association.

S3654 SWEENEY, RICE

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2 teachers to receive the Amistad Curriculum Award: one teacher
3 from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades
4 kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that
5 provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12.
6 Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of
7 their extraordinary contributions.
8 The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$5,000 to
9 the Department of Education to implement the provisions of this
10 bill.