

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5417

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 11, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No 5417.

This bill streamlines the path for qualified teacher candidates to become teachers.

The bill specifically prohibits the establishment of a cap on county college credits that may be applied toward educator preparation program requirements. The bill also prohibits the State Board of Education from limiting the number of county college credits that may be applied towards teacher certification requirements.

Current State board regulations provide that, for most candidates for teacher certification, no more than six credits earned in the field of professional education at a county college can be applied towards meeting the requirements for teacher certification. As a result, a student who has completed more than six credits in the field of professional education at a county college prior to his or her enrollment in a bachelor's degree program at a four-year institution of higher education will have to repeat some coursework, resulting in increased education costs and a delay in program completion. This bill prohibits the State Board of Education from limiting the number of professional education credits earned at a county college that may be applied towards meeting the requirements for teacher certification, provided that the credits are accepted by a State-approved college professional education preparation program.

This bill also prohibits a Commissioner-approved educator preparation program from capping the number of county college credits that may be accepted toward meeting the program's requirements, except as may be otherwise required by the program's accrediting organization.