

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5418**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 11, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No 5418.

This bill establishes the “Teacher Certification Reimbursement Fund” in the Department of Education. The purpose of the fund is to reimburse certain new teachers for the costs associated with certification, including fingerprinting requirements, testing requirements, and fees for issuing certificates. The fund is to also be used for the costs associated with certification for certain teachers holding instructional certificates who are seeking additional grade level or subject area endorsements. The fund is to consist of: any monies appropriated by the State for the purposes of the fund; any monies donated for the purposes of the fund; and all interest and investment earnings received on monies in the fund.

Under the provisions of the bill, the State Board of Education is required to adopt rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the bill, including: the criteria that a teacher is required to demonstrate in order to be eligible to receive monies from the fund, such as an income qualification; any limitations on the total amount that may be received by a teacher from the fund; the specific types of costs that may be reimbursed with monies from the fund; and the supporting documentation to be submitted in order to receive reimbursement from the fund.