

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5417

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 20, 2023

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5417, with committee amendments.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill prohibits limiting the number of county college credits that may be applied towards an educator preparation program and teacher certification requirements.

The amended bill prohibits a Commissioner-approved educator preparation program from capping the number of credits of professional education coursework completed at an accredited county college that may be accepted toward meeting the requirements for teacher certification, except as may be otherwise required by the program's accrediting organization.

Additionally, the amended bill prohibits the State Board of Education from limiting the number of credits of professional education credits earned at an accredited county college that may be applied towards meeting the requirements for teacher certification, provided that the credits are accepted by a Commissioner-approved educator preparation program.

The amended bill defines "professional education coursework" as coursework required to obtain teacher certification, including courses in child development, language development, curriculum development, and methods of instruction.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- update language throughout the bill to reflect recent revisions to chapter 9B of Title 6A of the New Jersey Administrative Code;
- define professional education coursework; and
- clarify that county college courses completed toward meeting the requirements for teacher certification are to be completed at an accredited county college.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

This bill was introduced in the 2022-2023 legislative session as Assembly Bill No. 5417. This bill was reported by the Assembly Education Committee on May 8, 2023.