

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 904

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 904.

This bill provides for a three year period during which a person hired by a school district, charter school, or renaissance school project will not be required to comply with the State residency requirement under R.S.52:14-7. This State residency requirement was established by law in 2011 and currently applies to all public officers and employees in the State, with certain limited exceptions.

The bill also specifies that a person hired by a school district, charter school, or renaissance school project who maintains or establishes a principal residence outside of this State during the three year period will not be required to comply with the residency requirement after the end of the three year period, regardless of whether the person changes their principal residence or experiences a break in service or employment with a school district, charter school, or renaissance school project after the end of the three year period. Under the bill, a school district, charter school, or renaissance school seeking to fill an open position would be required to make a good faith effort to hire a person who maintains a principal residence in the State for the open position.

The bill requires the Department of Education, not later than 90 days after the end of the three year period, to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature that evaluates the elimination of the residency requirement for persons hired by a school district, charter school, or renaissance school project during the three year period, with specific regard to its effectiveness, any unintended consequences, and any recommendations for legislation.