

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2640

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 6, 2007

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2640 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill will permit a board of chosen freeholders to consolidate the boards of education of the county special services school district and the county vocational school district into a single board. The board will be known as “The Board of Education of the Special Services School District and the Vocational School District of the county of” This board will have all the powers, functions and duties provided pursuant to law to a board of education of a county special services school district and a board of education of a county vocational school district.

The consolidated board will consist of the county superintendent of schools, ex officio, and six persons to be appointed by the chief elected executive officer of the county, or the director of the board of chosen freeholders, with the advice and consent of the remaining members of the board of chosen freeholders, as appropriate to the appointment procedures established by the form of government of the county. In any county having a county mental health board, the chairman thereof, or his designee, will also serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the board. At least three of the appointed members will have an interest in children with an educational disability or in the field of mental health and at least three will have an interest in the field of vocational education. The appointed members will serve for terms of three years.

If the board of chosen freeholders establishes a consolidated board pursuant to the provisions of this bill, the county special services school district and the county vocational school district will continue to be funded, operated, and maintained as independent school districts.

The committee amendments:

- clarify that nothing in the bill will be deemed to authorize the consolidation of a county special services school district and a county vocational school district, only the boards of education of the two districts;

- change the organization date for the consolidated board of education from November 1 to July 1; and
- clarify employee rights in the two districts sharing the consolidated board of education.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to the SCS for S-460 (1R).