

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3105

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2012

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

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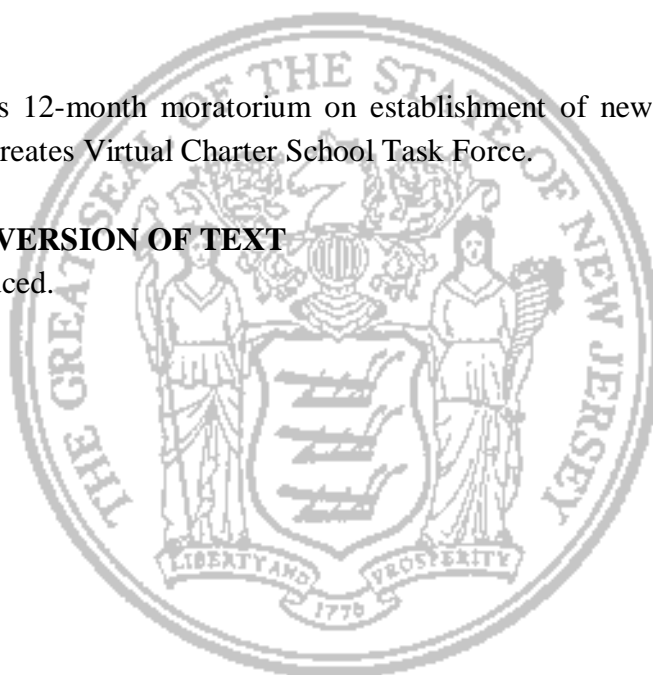
**Assemblywomen Watson Coleman, Jasey, Assemblymen Caputo, Giblin,  
Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblyman Eustace and Assemblywoman  
Caride**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes 12-month moratorium on establishment of new virtual charter schools and creates Virtual Charter School Task Force.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2012)**

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of virtual charter schools and  
2 supplementing P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-1 et seq.).

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. As used in this section, “virtual charter school” means a  
8 charter school in which all or a portion of the instruction is  
9 provided through means of the Internet, and the pupils enrolled in  
10 and instructional staff employed by the school are geographically  
11 remote from each other.

12 b. For a period of 12 months following the effective date of  
13 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the  
14 Commissioner of Education shall not approve any application or  
15 final charter for the establishment of a virtual charter school  
16 submitted pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-4).

17

18 2. There is established a Virtual Charter School Task Force to  
19 consist of the following 9 members: three members to be appointed  
20 by the Governor; three members to be appointed by the President of  
21 the Senate; and three members to be appointed by the Speaker of  
22 the General Assembly.

23

24 3. All appointments to the task force shall be made within 30  
25 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the  
26 membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as  
27 the original appointments were made. Members of the task force  
28 shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for  
29 necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties  
30 as members of the task force.

31

32 4. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable  
33 after the appointment of its members, shall choose a chairperson  
34 from among its members, and shall appoint a secretary who need  
35 not be a member of the task force. The task force shall meet at the  
36 call of the chair or when requested by a majority of its members. A  
37 majority of the membership of the task force shall constitute a  
38 quorum for the transaction of business, including the adoption of  
39 task force recommendations.

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41 5. The Department of Education shall provide such  
42 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such  
43 professional staff, as the task force requires to carry out its work.  
44 The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
45 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
46 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
47 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

1 6. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and develop  
2 recommendations on whether virtual charter schools can assist in  
3 promoting comprehensive education reform. The task force, when  
4 developing its recommendations, shall at a minimum address:

5 a. the statutory and regulatory authority for the operation of  
6 virtual charter schools, including providing any specific statutory or  
7 regulatory citations;

8 b. academic research assessing the effectiveness of virtual  
9 charter schools in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education;

10 c. how virtual charter schools satisfy the requirements for the  
11 provision of special education;

12 d. issues that may arise due to the enrollment of students over a  
13 large geographic region or from non-contiguous school districts;

14 e. part-time and full-time virtual charter schools;

15 f. non-profit and for-profit virtual charter schools;

16 g. parental involvement requirements;

17 h. community involvement requirements;

18 i. financial management and accountability systems;

19 j. guidelines for Internet-based technology for classes;

20 k. guidelines for the performance of virtual charter schools;

21 l. funding as a percentage of per pupil spending; and

22 m. curriculum standards.  
23

24 7. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and  
25 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
26 (C.52:14-19.1), containing its findings and recommendations,  
27 including any recommendations for legislation that it deems  
28 appropriate, no later than March 1, 2013.  
29

30 8. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force  
31 shall expire upon the issuance of its final report.  
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33  
34 STATEMENT  
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36 This bill provides that for a twelve-month period following the  
37 bill's effective date, the Commissioner of Education will not  
38 approve any application for the establishment of a virtual charter  
39 school. The bill defines a virtual charter school as one in which all  
40 or some instruction is provided through the Internet, and the  
41 students enrolled in the school and the instructional staff employed  
42 by the school are geographically remote from each other.

43 This bill also establishes the Virtual Charter School Task Force.  
44 The task force is to consist of 9 members, comprised of 3 members  
45 appointed by the Governor, 3 members appointed by the President  
46 of the Senate, and 3 members appointed by the Speaker of the  
47 General Assembly.

**A3105 DIEGNAN, JOHNSON**

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1       The task force is to investigate and develop recommendations for  
2 the governance structure of virtual charter school education in the  
3 State. The final recommendations must address: statutory and  
4 regulatory authority for the operation of virtual charter schools;  
5 part-time and full-time virtual charter schools; non-profit and for-  
6 profit virtual charter schools; parental involvement requirements;  
7 financial management systems; guidelines for Internet-based  
8 technology for classes; guidelines for the performance of virtual  
9 charter schools; funding as a percentage of per pupil spending; and  
10 curriculum standards.

11       The task force is directed to issue a report to the Governor and  
12 the Legislature no later than March 1, 2013.