

SENATE, No. 610

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gordon

SYNOPSIS

Requires executive county superintendent to designate a county special services school district, jointure commission, or educational services commission as the county education services agency to assist local school districts in sharing services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



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1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of education services
2 agencies and supplementing chapter 7 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. In April 2007 the Legislature enacted P.L.2007, c.63 which
10 established the office of the executive county superintendent of
11 schools;

12 b. Under the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 a local school district
13 may apply to the executive county superintendent to have school
14 district services including, but not limited to, transportation,
15 personnel, purchasing, payroll, and accounting, assumed by the
16 office of the superintendent;

17 c. The legislation provides further that the executive county
18 superintendent may utilize county special services school districts,
19 jointure commissions, and educational services commissions to
20 provide services to local school boards;

21 d. County special services school districts, jointure
22 commissions, and educational services commissions have been
23 providing shared services to counties for many decades and are
24 uniquely positioned to assist executive county superintendents in
25 implementing their charge of identifying efficiencies and cost
26 savings in the delivery of education services; and

27 e. By designating a county special services school district, a
28 jointure commission, or an educational services commission as an
29 education services agency for the county, the executive county
30 superintendent would be taking a significant step in accomplishing
31 the coordination and sharing of services among school districts
32 which the Legislature through the CORE legislation has determined
33 to be vitally important to the welfare of this State.

34

35 2. a. The executive county superintendent of schools shall
36 identify in the county an education services agency. The county
37 special services school district, jointure commission, or educational
38 services commission located within the county shall serve as the
39 education services agency; except that if there is no county special
40 services school district, jointure commission, or educational
41 services commission located within the county, the Commissioner
42 of Education shall designate a county special services school
43 district, jointure commission, or educational services commission in
44 an adjoining county to serve as the education services agency.

45 b. The funding and governance structure of a county special
46 services school district, jointure commission, or educational
47 services commission which is functioning as the county education

1 services agency shall continue as currently provided under law;
2 except that the programs and services which may be offered by the
3 designated education services agency may include the programs and
4 services authorized by law to be provided by a county special
5 services school district, jointure commission, and an educational
6 services commission regardless of which entity is designated as the
7 education services agency.

8 c. The county education services agency shall make available
9 to all school districts within the county a full array of programs and
10 services including, but not limited to: behavioral, business, and case
11 management services; county integrated preschool programs; crisis
12 response teams; database for placement options; early intervention
13 programs; grant writing assistance; homeless, in-district programs;
14 migrant and itinerant instructional services; nonpublic school
15 services and programs; outdoor and environmental education;
16 psychiatric evaluations; public relations; residency investigations;
17 respite programs; safe schools evaluations and support; satellite
18 classes; SEMI coordination; substitute registry; summer school
19 programs; technology support; therapeutic services and evaluations;
20 transition services; transportation; and workshops and professional
21 development activities. An entity designated as the county
22 education services agency shall have the capacity to offer the array
23 of programs and services listed in this subsection or the capacity to
24 facilitate the sharing of these programs and services by the school
25 districts within the county.

26 d. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a school
27 district to avail itself of any of the programs and services of a
28 county education services agency, including facilitating the sharing
29 of programs and services among school districts within the county.
30

31 3. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
32 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
33 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the
34 provisions of this act.
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36 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
37 the 2011-2012 school year.
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40 STATEMENT
41

42 This bill provides that the executive county superintendent of
43 schools in each county, as a means to accomplish his responsibility
44 to promote shared services among school districts in the county,
45 must identify an education services agency to serve the county. The
46 education services agency must be either a county special services
47 school district, jointure commission, or educational services

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1 commission located in the county; except that if there is not one of
2 these entities located in the county, the Commissioner of Education
3 is required to designate one of these entities in an adjoining county
4 to serve as the education services agency.

5 The county education services agency will make available to
6 school districts in the county various programs and services,
7 including: behavioral, business and case management services;
8 county integrated preschool programs; crisis response teams;
9 database for placement options; early intervention programs; grant
10 writing assistance; homeless, in-district programs; migrant and
11 itinerant instructional services; nonpublic school services and
12 programs; outdoor and environmental education; psychiatric
13 evaluations; public relations; residency investigations; respite
14 programs; safe schools evaluations and support; satellite classes;
15 SEMI coordination; substitute registry; summer school programs;
16 technology support; therapeutic services and evaluations; transition
17 services; transportation; and workshops and professional
18 development activities. An entity designated as a county education
19 services agency must have the capacity to offer the listed programs
20 and services, or have the capacity to facilitate the sharing of these
21 programs and services by the school districts within the county.

22 Under the provisions of the bill the funding and governance
23 structure of a county special services school district, jointure
24 commission, or educational services commission which is
25 functioning as the county education services agency will remain the
26 same; except that the education services agency may offer the
27 programs and services which under current law may be offered by a
28 county special services school district, by a jointure commission,
29 and by an educational services commission. Since county special
30 services school districts and educational services commissions are
31 established under their own enabling legislation, each has its
32 separate powers and authorities under that law. While the law
33 permitting the establishment of jointure commissions was repealed
34 pursuant to the CORE legislation in 2007, existing jointure
35 commissions were permitted to continue operating. This bill will
36 allow whichever entity is designated as the education services
37 agency to be able to provide the programs and services that are
38 currently permitted to be provided by the others.