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ASSEMBLY, No. 2800

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2014

Sponsored by:

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District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

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Assemblyman ANGEL FUENTES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

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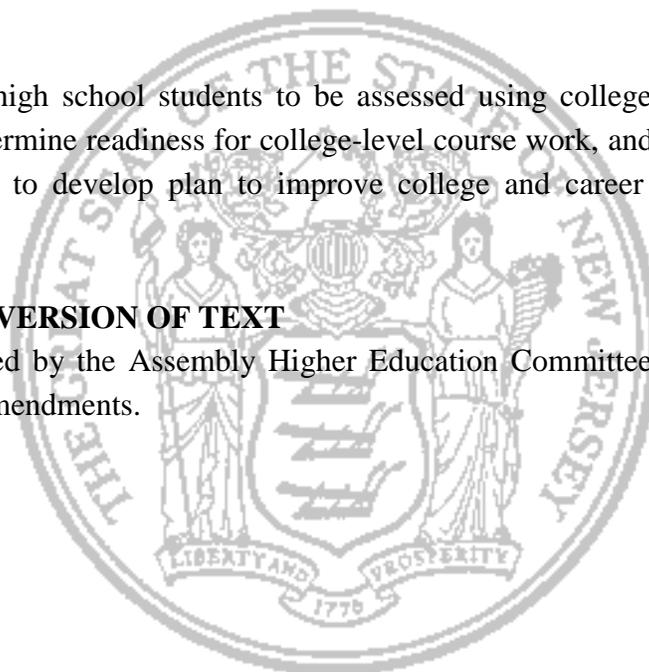
Assemblymen McGuckin, Garcia and Wimberly

SYNOPSIS

Requires high school students to be assessed using college placement cut scores to determine readiness for college-level course work, and Commissioner of Education to develop plan to improve college and career counseling for students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on October 2, 2014, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/17/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning high school curriculum requirements and
2 supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 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 it is the goal of the
9 State that all students achieve competency in Language Arts
10 Literacy and Mathematics by the time of the student's graduation
11 from high school.

12
13 2. a. As used in this section, "cut score" means that a student
14 has achieved one of the following scores in each subject area:

15 (1) in English/Language Arts:

16 (a) a minimum score of 24 on the verbal section of the ACT,

17 (b) a minimum score of 540 on the critical reading section of the
18 SAT, or

19 (c) a score ¹**【of advanced proficient】** to be determined by the
20 Commissioner of Education¹ on the Language Arts Literacy section
21 of the ¹**【High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)】** Partnership
22 for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)¹;
23 and

24 (2) in Mathematics:

25 (a) a minimum score of 23 on the mathematics section of the
26 ACT,

27 (b) a minimum score of 550 on the mathematics section of the
28 SAT, or

29 (c) a score ¹**【of advanced proficient】** to be determined by the
30 Commissioner of Education¹ on the mathematics section of the
31 ¹**【High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)】** Partnership for
32 Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)¹.

33 b. The State Board of Education shall establish high school
34 curriculum standards that include the following requirements:

35 (1) beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, all public school
36 students shall be assessed using cut scores no later than the 11th
37 grade to determine whether the student is ready for college-level,
38 credit-bearing course work in Language Arts Literacy and
39 Mathematics;

40 (2) the Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with school
41 districts and the county colleges, shall develop and implement by
42 the 2016-2017 school year, transition courses or other instructional
43 opportunities to be provided in the 12th grade to students who have
44 not achieved college and career readiness by the end of the 11th

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted October 2, 2014.

1 grade. The implementation of the transition courses required
2 pursuant to this paragraph shall include an assessment or
3 reassessment of the student after completion of the course, and may
4 not preclude or replace enrollment in a course otherwise required
5 for graduation from high school.

6 c. A student who successfully completes a transition course
7 shall not be required to take a college placement test upon
8 enrollment in a college or university and shall be enrolled in credit-
9 bearing course-work. A college or university may require a student
10 who fails to successfully complete a transition course to take a
11 college placement test upon enrollment and to delay the student's
12 enrollment in credit-bearing coursework until the student
13 demonstrates the skill levels required to pursue courses for credit.

14

15 3. The Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with the
16 Secretary of Higher Education and school districts, shall study the
17 development, content, and implementation of the transition courses
18 required pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of section 2 of
19 this act. The study shall include the alignment of the transition
20 courses to the Common Core State Standards and whether the
21 courses should be considered to meet high school graduation
22 standards. The study shall also determine the appropriate
23 assessment to be used to determine college and career readiness and
24 how a student's level of readiness will be reflected on the high
25 school transcript.

26 A report on the study shall be submitted to the Governor, and to
27 the Senate Higher Education and Education Committees and the
28 General Assembly Higher Education and Education Committees, or
29 their successor committees.

30

31 4. On or before December 1, 2015, the Commissioner of
32 Education shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
33 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning
34 the feasibility of the award of a State endorsed high school diploma
35 regardless of whether a student has completed the minimum number
36 of required credits or four years of high school if:

37 a. the student is assessed as college and career ready pursuant
38 to subsection b. of section 2 of this act; and

39 b. successfully completes any graduation assessment
40 requirements established by the State board.

41

42 5. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop a plan, in
43 consultation with the Secretary of Higher Education, to improve
44 college and career counseling that is provided to students in middle
45 and high schools.

46 b. The plan developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section
47 shall include:

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- 1 (1) the identification of best practices in college and career
2 counseling used in the State and nationally; and
3 (2) a recommendation for a competitive grant program to
4 implement the identified best practices.
5 c. The commissioner shall submit the plan to the Governor, and
6 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
7 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 90 days after the effective date of this
8 act.
9
10 6. This act shall take effect immediately.