

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 56**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE

District 10 (Ocean)

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Commissioner of Education to suspend regulations on school district superintendent maximum salary amount for certain contract terms, and not to readopt at sunset.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/22/2016)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Commissioner of
2 Education to suspend the regulations on the maximum salary
3 amount for school district superintendents.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, In 2007 the executive county superintendent of schools
6 was given the authority pursuant to N.J.S.18A:7-8 to review and
7 approve all employment contracts for superintendents of schools;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, The process for the review of those contracts was included
10 in the accountability regulations adopted by the Commissioner of
11 Education in 2008; and

12 **WHEREAS**, In 2011, former Commissioner of Education, Chris Cerf,
13 amended the accountability regulations to define a maximum salary
14 amount for school district superintendents, and to provide that a
15 superintendent's employment contract may not include an annual
16 salary that exceeds the maximum; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The maximum salary amount for a superintendent is based
18 on the student enrollment of the school district plus, if applicable,
19 an additional district increment or a high school increment; and

20 **WHEREAS**, When the Legislature provided for the review of
21 superintendent contracts, it never contemplated, discussed, or
22 authorized the establishment of a maximum salary amount; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The consequences of the commissioner's regulation on
24 maximum salaries has been an exodus of experienced
25 superintendents from New Jersey to surrounding states due in part
26 to the fact that the State's maximum salary amounts are well below
27 the salaries paid to superintendents employed in similar school
28 districts in the surrounding region; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature has authorized and the State has
30 established school district fiscal accountability measures, including
31 the 2% tax levy cap and the per pupil administrative cost limit, that
32 act to ensure that school district spending is controlled and
33 appropriately directed toward instructional programs and services;
34 and

35 **WHEREAS**, The establishment of maximum salaries for school district
36 superintendents shrinks the pool of potential experienced candidates
37 and acts to inhibit the ability of boards of education to select the
38 educational leader whom the board determines would be the most
39 capable of advancing both the educational and fiscal goals of the
40 district; now, therefore,

41
42 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
43 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*
44

45 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the
46 Commissioner of Education to suspend the regulations on the
47 maximum salary amount for a superintendent of schools for those
48 superintendent contracts that have a contract term that begins on

ACR56 JASEY, WOLFE

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1 July 1, 2016, and not to readopt the regulations when they sunset on
2 November 25, 2016.

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4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
6 Secretary of the Senate to the Commissioner of Education and each
7 member of the State Board of Education.