

# SENATE, No. 997

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**  
**District 29 (Essex)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Makes supplemental appropriation of \$103,000,000 from Property Tax Relief Fund to DOE to provide preschool expansion aid to certain school districts.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 A SUPPLEMENT to "An Act making appropriations for the support  
2 of the State Government and the several public purposes for the  
3 fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 and regulating the disbursement  
4 thereof," approved June , 2016 (P.L.2016, c. ).

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

8  
9 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2016, c. ,  
10 there is appropriated out of the Property Tax Relief Fund the  
11 following sum for the purpose specified:  
12

**34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
*30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*  
*31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance*

STATE AID

01-5120 General Formula Aid.....	\$103,000,000
<hr/>	
Total State Aid Appropriation,	
Direct Educational Services and Assistance .....	\$103,000,000
<hr/>	

*State Aid:*

01 Preschool Education Aid..... (\$103,000,000)

13  
14 From the amount hereinabove appropriated for Preschool Education  
15 Aid, the Commissioner of Education shall provide State aid to no  
16 more than 17 qualified districts for the purpose of providing free  
17 access to full-day preschool for all three- and four-year old  
18 children residing in the school district in accordance with the  
19 preschool quality standards adopted by the commissioner. The  
20 commissioner shall determine which qualified districts shall  
21 receive Preschool Education Aid based on a district’s  
22 demonstration of its readiness to operate a preschool program  
23 consistent with the preschool quality standards, and shall give  
24 priority to qualified districts having the highest concentration of  
25 at-risk pupils, as defined pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2007,  
26 c.260 (C.18A:7F-45), among all qualified districts. The  
27 commissioner shall calculate the aid pursuant to the provisions of  
28 subsection a. of section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-54)  
29 based on the projected preschool enrollment. For the purposes of  
30 this provision, “qualified district” means a school district that:  
31 (1) pursuant to the provisions of section 12 of P.L.2007,  
32 c.260 (C.18A:7F-54), is to provide free access to full-day  
33 preschool to all three- and four-year old children who reside in  
34 the district; (2) does not receive any other State funding to  
35 provide such access to full-day preschool; (3) does not receive  
36 funds from a subgrant from the federal Preschool Development  
37 Grants program; and (4) has at least 75 resident four-year old  
38 children who reside in households in which the household

1 income is no greater than 185 percent of the federal poverty  
2 guidelines.

3

4 2. This act shall take effect June 1, 2016, or upon the  
5 enactment of P.L.2016, c. , the annual appropriations act for fiscal  
6 year 2016-2017, whichever occurs later.

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11 This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$103 million  
12 to the Department of Education to provide preschool education aid  
13 to additional school districts. Specifically, the bill directs the  
14 Commissioner of Education to provide State aid to up to 17  
15 qualified districts for the purpose of providing free access to full-  
16 day preschool for all three- and four-year old children residing in  
17 the school district. The commissioner would determine which  
18 qualified districts would receive the aid based on the districts  
19 demonstrating their readiness to operate a preschool program  
20 consistent with the State's preschool quality standards, with priority  
21 going to the districts with the highest concentration of at-risk pupils  
22 (defined as students residing in a household in which income does  
23 not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline). Under the  
24 bill, a "qualified district" includes a school district that: 1) under  
25 the school funding law, is to provide free access to full-day  
26 preschool to all three- and four-year old children residing in the  
27 school district; 2) does not receive any other State funding to  
28 provide such access to preschool; 3) does not receive funds from a  
29 subgrant from the federal Preschool Development Grants program;  
30 and 4) has at least 75 four-year old residents who live in households  
31 in which the income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal  
32 poverty guidelines.

33 Based on data from the Application for State School Aid from  
34 the Department of Education, the following 17 school districts have  
35 the highest concentration of at-risk students among all qualified  
36 districts: Bayonne City, Bellville Town, Carteret Borough, Cliffside  
37 Park Borough, Dover Town, Fairview Borough, Guttenberg Town,  
38 Hackensack City, Haledon Borough, Hillside Township,  
39 Pennsauken Township, Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional,  
40 Prospect Park Borough, Roselle Borough, Somers Point City,  
41 Ventnor City, and Woodbury City.