

ASSEMBLY, No. 4843

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires establishment of Work and Learn Consortiums by certain educational institutions to establish certificate and degree programs identified in high labor-demand industries.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/26/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of Work and Learn
2 Consortiums by certain educational institutions and
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Guided pathway” means a set map of courses that are clearly
10 identified and aligned with further education and career
11 advancement. A guided pathway shows a student the entire
12 program of study from its beginning to its end.

13 “Program” means a program operated by a Work and Learn
14 Consortium established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

15 “Stackable credentials” means industry-recognized, short-term
16 credentials and certificates that count toward a higher-level certificate
17 or degree so that individuals may advance in employment and training
18 over the course of their careers.

19 “Stop-out point” means a point at which a student may exit a
20 program with an industry-valued credential, with the opportunity to
21 re-enter the program without penalty or loss of progress.

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23 2. a. A county college and a county vocational school district
24 shall enter into a Work and Learn Consortium for the purpose of
25 creating certificate and degree programs that lead to employment in
26 industries in which there is a high demand for qualified employees.
27 The consortium shall work in partnership with the New Jersey
28 Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the local
29 workforce investment board to address the highest areas of labor
30 demand in New Jersey as identified by the department.

31 b. The purpose of the programs developed by a consortium
32 shall be to: foster collaboration between academic and non-
33 academic entities; provide students with an opportunity to earn
34 stackable credentials that will increase the likelihood of
35 employment in industries of high demand and future growth in the
36 State; develop a guided pathway for students to earn those
37 credentials; and allow enrolled students to choose among multiple
38 program stop-out points.

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40 3. A Work and Learn Consortium shall include the following
41 components:

42 a. The county vocational school district shall award the high
43 school diploma, provide training, and award early certificates.

44 b. The county college shall:

- 45 (1) award certificates and the associate degree;
46 (2) coordinate the program’s internship component;
47 (3) develop the guided pathway;

1 (4) provide student advising services and student support
2 services; and

3 (5) award prior learning assessment credits for experience and
4 knowledge acquired while working.

5 c. The local workforce investment board shall:

6 (1) identify business and industries that have a workforce
7 demand; and

8 (2) assist in the recruitment of persons who are unemployed or
9 want to change career.

10 The local workforce investment board shall have a satellite location
11 on the county college campus.

12 d. A Work and Learn Consortium shall work to form
13 partnerships with:

14 (1) four-year public institutions of higher education to provide
15 additional certificates and baccalaureate degrees under the stackable
16 credentials program;

17 (2) the local chamber of commerce in order to identify business
18 and industry partners and to market and promote the consortium;
19 and

20 (3) business and industry in order to identify industry trends and
21 required certifications, credentials, and training, and to provide
22 internships to enrolled students.

23 e. There shall be an advisory board for each Work and Learn
24 Consortium program. The Department of Labor and Workforce
25 Development and the Department of Education shall provide
26 support to the advisory board, and shall share trend analysis data
27 related to economic growth.

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29 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires a county college and a county vocational
35 school district to enter into a Work and Learn Consortium for the
36 purpose of creating certificate and degree programs that lead to
37 employment in industries in which there is a high demand for
38 qualified employees. The consortium will work in partnership with
39 the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
40 and the local workforce investment board to address the highest
41 areas of labor demand in New Jersey as identified by the
42 department. The purpose of the programs developed by a
43 consortium will be to: foster collaboration between academic and
44 non-academic entities; provide students with the opportunity to earn
45 stackable credentials that will increase the likelihood of
46 employment in industries of high demand and future growth in the
47 State; develop a guided pathway for students to earn those
48 credentials; and allow enrolled students to choose among multiple

1 program stop-out points. The bill defines a “stop-out point” as a
2 point at which a student may exit a program with an industry-valued
3 credential, with the opportunity to re-enter the program without
4 penalty or loss of progress. “Stackable credentials” are industry-
5 recognized, short-term credentials and certificates that count toward
6 a higher-level certificate or degree so that individuals may advance
7 in employment and training over the course of their careers. A
8 “guided pathway” is a set map of courses that are clearly identified
9 and aligned with further education and career advancement, and
10 shows a student the entire program of study from its beginning to its
11 end.

12 The bill outlines the role and responsibilities of each entity that
13 is a member of the consortium including the county vocational
14 school district, the county college, and the local workforce
15 investment board. The bill directs a consortium to work to form
16 partnerships with: four-year public institutions of higher education
17 to provide additional certificates and baccalaureate degrees under
18 consortium programs; business and industry to identify required
19 credentials and training and to provide internships to enrolled
20 students; and the local chamber of commerce to identify business
21 and industry partners and to market and promote the consortium.

22 There will be an advisory board for each program offered by the
23 Work and Learn Consortium. The Department of Labor and
24 Workforce Development and the Department of Education will
25 provide support to the advisory boards and share trend analysis data
26 related to economic growth.