

ASSEMBLY, No. 212

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program in DOE to recruit, select, and train veterans for school security positions in school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a school security position pilot program and
2 supplementing chapter 41 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. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-
9 year pilot program that provides for the training and placement of
10 veterans in school security positions available in school districts.
11 The purpose of the pilot program shall be to increase school
12 security by utilizing the skills of veterans.

13 b. The commissioner, in consultation with the Attorney
14 General, shall establish policies and procedures for the recruitment,
15 selection, and training of veterans eligible to participate in the pilot
16 program, and for matching the selected veterans to school security
17 positions available in school districts. The policies shall evaluate
18 the level of skills, training, experience, fitness, and other
19 qualifications deemed necessary for a veteran to serve in a school
20 security position.

21 Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.2004, c.134 (C.45:19A-1
22 et seq.) to the contrary, the commissioner may utilize the education
23 and training program for security officers established pursuant to
24 section 5 of the "Security Officer Registration Act," P.L.2004,
25 c.134 (C.45:19A-5), to train eligible veterans for school security
26 positions under the pilot program.

27 c. A school district that wants to participate in the pilot
28 program shall submit an application to the commissioner in such
29 form as required by the commissioner. The school district, as part
30 of the application, shall include information on the security needs of
31 the school district, the number of school security positions at each
32 school, the rate of turnover in these positions, and other information
33 as required by the commissioner.

34 d. The commissioner shall select up to 12 school districts for
35 participation in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select
36 districts in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State
37 and shall seek a cross section of school districts from urban,
38 suburban, and rural areas of the State.

39 In selecting the pilot school districts, the commissioner shall
40 consider the security needs of the district as reflected in the data
41 reported in the commissioner's annual report on violence,
42 vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the public
43 schools, as required under section 3 of P.L.1982, c.163 (C.18A:17-
44 48).

45 e. Three years following the establishment of the pilot
46 program, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor,
47 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
48 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall contain information on the

1 implementation of the pilot program, the effectiveness of veterans
2 in school security positions, and the recommendations of the
3 commissioner and the Attorney General on the advisability of
4 continuing, expanding, or modifying the program.

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6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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9 STATEMENT

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11 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a
12 three-year pilot program that provides for the training and
13 placement of veterans in school security positions available in
14 school districts. The purpose of the pilot program is to increase
15 school security by utilizing the skills of veterans.

16 The bill directs the commissioner, in consultation with the
17 Attorney General, to establish policies and procedures for the
18 recruitment, selection, and training of veterans eligible to
19 participate in the pilot program, and for matching the selected
20 veterans to school security positions available in school districts.
21 The policies will evaluate the level of skills, training, experience,
22 fitness, and other qualifications deemed necessary for a veteran to
23 serve in a school security position. The bill also authorizes the
24 Commissioner of Education to utilize the education and training
25 program for security officers established under the “Security
26 Officer Registration Act,” P.L.2004, c.134 (C.45:19A-1 et seq.), to
27 train eligible veterans for school security positions in school
28 districts.

29 A school district that wants to participate in the pilot program
30 may submit an application to the commissioner in such form as
31 required by the commissioner. The commissioner will select up to
32 12 school districts from the northern, central, and southern regions
33 of the State for participation in the pilot program. In selecting the
34 pilot school districts, the commissioner will consider the security
35 needs of the district as reflected in the data reported in the
36 commissioner’s annual report on violence, vandalism, and
37 harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the public schools.

38 The bill also directs the commissioner to submit a report to the
39 Governor and the Legislature, three years following the
40 establishment of the pilot program, that contains information on the
41 implementation of the pilot program, the effectiveness of veterans
42 on school safety and security, and the recommendations of the
43 commissioner and Attorney General on the advisability of
44 continuing, expanding, or modifying the program.

45 Establishes pilot program in DOE to recruit, select, and train
46 veterans for school security positions in school districts.