

ASSEMBLY, No. 412

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman EDWARD H. THOMSON

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires all public school teachers and paraprofessionals working with autistic students to possess Registered Behavior Technician credential by 2020-2021 school year.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning public school teachers and paraprofessionals
2 providing services to autistic students and supplementing chapter
3 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the State Board
9 of Education shall require each teacher and paraprofessional who
10 teaches students with autism to possess a Registered Behavior
11 Technician credential verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification
12 Board.

13 b. The Commissioner of Education shall make available
14 through the department's website, free, self-directed, online training
15 which fulfills the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's eligibility
16 training requirements toward attaining a Registered Behavior
17 Technician credential.

18 c. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
19 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
20 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as it may deem necessary to effectuate the
21 purposes of this act.

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23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill would require the State Board of Education to mandate
29 that beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, each teacher and
30 paraprofessional who teaches students with autism must possess a
31 Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) credential verified by the
32 Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). In order to assist
33 individuals in obtaining this credential, the bill requires the
34 Commissioner of Education to make available on the department's
35 website, free, self-directed, online training which fulfills the
36 BACB's eligibility training requirements toward attaining an RBT
37 credential.

38 Applied behavior analysis (ABA) services have been utilized
39 extensively in the field of autism. Individuals providing these
40 services design, implement, and evaluate instructional and
41 environmental modifications to produce socially significant
42 improvements in behavior. The BACB is an organization whose
43 mission is to protect consumers of ABA services by systematically
44 establishing, promoting, and disseminating professional standards
45 for individuals providing these services. In 2014, the BACB
46 initiated a program for credentialing behavior technicians. The new
47 credential, the RBT credential, represents the entry-level position
48 within the range of the BACB credentials, which include the Board

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- 1 Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst and the Board Certified
- 2 Behavior Analyst. Under this bill, teachers and paraprofessionals
- 3 will receive basic instruction on the implementation of behavior-
- 4 analytic services for students with autism.