ASSEMBLY, No. 811

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
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Co-Sponsored by:
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SYNOPSIS

Directs DOLWD to identify, and post on website, employment opportunities with minimal barriers to entry for persons returning to workforce after imprisonment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/5/2021)

AN ACT concerning employment opportunities for individuals returning to workforce after imprisonment and supplementing Title 34 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. Employment is crucial for individuals returning from incarceration to their communities. Employed individuals are significantly less likely to return to incarceration post-release because employment enables successful reintegration to society;

b. Recently-incarcerated individuals face barriers to entry for quality employment, that often limit the person's ability to obtain employment and may discourage the individual from even seeking quality of life improvements;

c. One barrier that recently-incarcerated individuals face is the stigma associated with formerly incarcerated persons. Employers may not even consider a candidate with a conviction; and

d. The lack of education is another barrier to employment for recently incarcerated individuals. Many recently-incarcerated individuals do not have the educational opportunities required for an effective return to society.

e. Assisting individuals who were recently-incarcerated in obtaining employment benefits all residents of the State because it increases State-wide productivity and economic prosperity.

2. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall identify employment opportunities for persons returning to the workforce after incarceration, which have minimal barriers of entry and which have a demand for workers. The department shall conspicuously post, on an ongoing basis, notification of these employment opportunities on its website.

3. This act shall take effect on the 90th day next following enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill charges the Department of Labor and Workforce Development with identifying those employment opportunities for person returning to the workforce after imprisonment, which have minimal barriers. The department is required to post, on an ongoing basis, this employment information on its website.