

ASSEMBLY, No. 825

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes a pilot program in DOE to increase the length of the school day and school year and provides tax credits for corporate contributions to fund the program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the length of the school day and school year
2 and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes and P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.).
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 public school district pilot program to increase the length of
10 the school day and school year in the pilot districts. The goal of the
11 pilot program shall be to study the effects of a longer school day
12 and school year on advancing student achievement, enhancing the
13 overall school learning environment, and increasing student
14 enrichment opportunities and educational offerings.

15 b. A school district which wants to participate in the pilot
16 program shall submit an application to the commissioner. The
17 application shall provide information on the number of hours that
18 the school day will be increased and the number of days that the
19 school year will be lengthened, and detail how participation in the
20 pilot program will serve to advance the academic achievement of
21 students enrolled in the district. The application shall include
22 documentation that participation in the pilot program is supported
23 by a majority of school district staff and parents of students enrolled
24 in the district.

25 c. The commissioner shall select up to 25 school districts for
26 participation in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select
27 districts in the southern, central, and northern regions of the State
28 and shall seek a cross section of school districts from urban,
29 suburban, and rural areas of the State.

30 In selecting the pilot school districts, the commissioner shall
31 consider factors related to the program's potential impact on student
32 achievement including, but not limited to, the percentage of district
33 students who are partially proficient on the Statewide assessments,
34 the percentage of district students who graduate from high school,
35 and the percentage of district students who drop out of school prior
36 to graduation.

37 d. No later than June 30 of the third school year following the
38 establishment of the pilot program, the commissioner shall submit
39 to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
40 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a report that evaluates the
41 effectiveness of the pilot program in increasing student achievement
42 and high school graduation rates. The report shall include a
43 recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation
44 and extension to additional school districts.
45

46 2. a. Beginning in the first State fiscal year following the
47 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
48 Legislature as this bill), the Director of the Division of Taxation in

1 the Department of Treasury shall establish a three-year program to
2 provide tax credits to corporations which contribute funding to the
3 Department of Education to implement the pilot program
4 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
5 before the Legislature as this bill).

6 b. Subject to the restrictions established pursuant to subsection
7 d. of this section, a taxpayer, upon application to the Director of the
8 Division of Taxation in the Department of Treasury, shall be
9 allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of
10 P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) for a privilege period, in an amount
11 equal to 100% of the contributions made by the taxpayer to the
12 department during the privilege period; provided that the taxpayer
13 shall designate at the time the contribution is made that the
14 contribution is made pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
15 before the Legislature as this bill).

16 c. The order of priority of the credit allowed under
17 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and
18 any other credits allowed by law shall be as prescribed by the
19 director. The amount of the credit applied under P.L. ,
20 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) against the
21 tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5)
22 for a privilege period shall not reduce the tax liability to an amount
23 less than the statutory minimum provided in subsection (e) of
24 section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5). An unused amount of
25 credit shall expire at the end of the privilege period.

26 d. In aggregate, the total tax contribution of all participating
27 corporations shall not exceed \$24,000,000 in the first State fiscal
28 year, \$48,000,000 in the second State fiscal year, and \$72,000,000
29 in the third State fiscal year. If the sum of the amount of tax credits
30 authorized pursuant to this section in a State fiscal year exceeds the
31 aggregate annual limits established pursuant to this subsection, tax
32 credits shall be allowed in the order in which contributions are
33 made until the limit is reached.

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35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill establishes a three-year public school district pilot
41 program to increase the length of the school day and school year in
42 the pilot districts. The goal of the pilot program will be to study the
43 effects of a longer school day and school year on advancing student
44 achievement, enhancing the overall school learning environment,
45 and increasing student enrichment opportunities and educational
46 offerings.

47 Under the bill, a school district which wants to participate in the
48 pilot program will submit an application to the commissioner. The

1 application must provide information on the number of hours that
2 the school day will be increased and the number of days that the
3 school year will be lengthened, and must include documentation
4 that participation in the pilot program is supported by a majority of
5 school district staff and parents of students enrolled in the district.

6 The commissioner will select up to 25 school districts for
7 participation in the pilot program. In selecting the pilot school
8 districts, the commissioner will consider factors related to the
9 program's potential impact on student achievement.

10 The commissioner will submit a report to the Governor and the
11 Legislature no later than June 30 of the third school year following
12 the establishment of the pilot program, which evaluates the
13 effectiveness of the pilot program and includes a recommendation
14 on the advisability of the program's continuation and extension to
15 additional school districts.

16 Under the bill, the Director of the Division of Taxation in the
17 Department of Treasury will establish a three-year program to
18 provide tax credits to corporations which contribute funding to the
19 Department of Education to fund the costs associated with the pilot
20 program. The total tax credit of all participating corporations is
21 capped at \$24,000,000 the first State fiscal year, \$48,000,000 the
22 second State fiscal year, and \$72,000,000 the third State fiscal year.
23 If the sum of the amount of tax credits authorized in a State fiscal
24 year exceeds the aggregate annual limits, tax credits will be allowed
25 in the order in which contributions are made until the limit is
26 reached.