

ASSEMBLY, No. 1895

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Creates advisory council to oversee revision of core curriculum content standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a Core Curriculum Content Standards
2 Advisory Council and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of
3 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. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
9 State Board of Education, shall appoint a Core Curriculum Content
10 Standards Advisory Council to assist and advise the State board in
11 the ongoing review of core curriculum content standards.

12 b. The advisory council shall consist of 15 members chosen
13 from among the K-12 education, higher education, and business
14 communities and shall also include a parent representative. The
15 advisory council shall include among its members: at least one
16 curriculum director with expertise in curriculum and standards
17 issues from the K-12 education community; at least one professor of
18 education employed by a four-year institution of higher education;
19 at least one professor with a Ph.D. in an academic content area
20 employed by a four-year institution of higher education; and at least
21 one professor employed by a county college. Each member shall be
22 appointed for a five-year term and shall be limited to serving two
23 terms. The members shall serve without compensation, but shall be
24 reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance
25 of their duties as members of the council.

26 c. The advisory council members appointed pursuant to
27 subsection b. of this section and the subcommittee members
28 appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act shall not have personal
29 conflicts of interest with regard to actions taken by the council. No
30 member shall derive a direct monetary gain or loss from actions
31 taken by the council. Council members are prohibited from
32 participating in any action of the council in which they have a
33 personal interest. All potential and current conflicts of interest shall
34 be publicly disclosed in writing annually.

35 d. The council shall organize as soon as may be practicable
36 after the appointment of its members and shall choose a chairperson
37 from among its members and shall appoint a secretary who need not
38 be a member of the council.

39 e. The Department of Education shall provide such
40 stenographic, clerical and other administrative assistants, and such
41 professional staff, as the council requires to carry out its work. The
42 council shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself
43 of the services of the employees of any State, county or municipal
44 department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require
45 and as may be available for its purposes.

46 f. The council, and any subcommittee appointed by the
47 council, shall keep minutes of its meetings and shall make such
48 minutes available to the public via Internet posting.

1 2. a. The Core Curriculum Content Standards Advisory
2 Council shall establish a subcommittee for each of the subject areas
3 of the core curriculum content standards. Each subcommittee shall
4 include among its members: teachers employed by a public school
5 district (K-5 Elementary Certified, 6-8 Content Area Certified, 9-12
6 Content Area Certified); a professor of education employed by a
7 four-year institution of higher education; a professor with a Ph.D. in
8 the specific academic content area employed by a four-year
9 institution of higher education; a professor employed by a county
10 college in that specific academic content area; a representative from
11 a business specifically related to that specific content area; a parent
12 of a student enrolled in a public school; and a student representative
13 who is a current high school student or a recent high school
14 graduate. A member of the Core Curriculum Content Standards
15 Advisory Council also may serve as a member of a subcommittee.

16 b. Each subcommittee shall review the existing standards for
17 its subject area to ensure that they contain clarity, rigor, content,
18 depth, and coherence. The subcommittee shall:

19 (1) review relevant research on the subject area and identify
20 areas in the standards where revision is appropriate;

21 (2) examine curriculum standards for the subject area adopted
22 by other states, countries, and entities;

23 (3) collect feedback on the existing State standards from
24 teachers, parents, and other stakeholders through the development
25 of an online survey and make feedback available to the public via
26 Internet posting;

27 (4) solicit feedback from appropriate content related
28 professional organizations, associations, and societies; and

29 (5) write a report detailing the strengths and weaknesses of the
30 standards.

31 c. The subcommittee shall revise the standards to reflect its
32 findings from the research conducted pursuant to subsection b. of
33 this section. In lieu of revisions, a subcommittee may recommend
34 the adoption of a highly-regarded set of standards from another
35 state or country or by working with a consortium of states to revise
36 and develop a set of standards.

37 d. The subcommittee, through the Department of Education,
38 shall provide an electronic copy of the revised standards to each
39 school district and shall make such revised standards available to
40 the public via Internet posting. Each school district shall notify
41 parents or guardians of its students that the Core Curriculum
42 Content Standards are being revised and that there is an opportunity
43 to provide feedback. The subcommittee, through the department,
44 shall provide an electronic copy of the revised standards to the
45 relevant department head of each institution of higher education in
46 the State. A public comment period of at least 60 days shall be
47 provided. The subcommittee shall conduct at least one public
48 hearing for the purpose of permitting the public to comment on the

1 rigor, clarity, and reasonableness of the standards developed by the
2 subcommittee. The standards shall be revised as appropriate.

3 e. The subcommittee shall submit the revised standards to the
4 advisory council for its review and approval.

5 f. The process established pursuant to this section shall be
6 adhered to for all revisions to the Core Curriculum Content
7 Standards.
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9 3. Upon the receipt of revised standards from a subcommittee,
10 the Core Curriculum Content Standards Advisory Council shall
11 review and finalize the standards before forwarding them to the
12 Commissioner of Education for consideration and adoption by the
13 State Board of Education. The Commissioner of Education may
14 submit standards to the State Board of Education that are different
15 than those submitted by the Core Curriculum Content Standards
16 Advisory Council, along with a written justification and explanation
17 of any changes that were made. The written justification shall be
18 made available to the public.
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20 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
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23 STATEMENT 24

25 Under this bill, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
26 with the State Board of Education, is directed to appoint a Core
27 Curriculum Content Standards Advisory Council to assist and
28 advise the State Board in the ongoing review of core curriculum
29 content standards. The advisory council will consist of 15 members
30 chosen from among the K-12 education, higher education, and
31 business communities and shall also include student and parent
32 representatives. The bill directs the Core Curriculum Content
33 Standards Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee for each of
34 the subject areas of the core curriculum content standards.

35 The bill directs each subcommittee to review the existing
36 standards for its subject area. Under the bill, the subcommittee
37 will:

38 (1) review relevant research on the subject area and identify
39 areas in the standards where revision is appropriate;

40 (2) examine curriculum standards for the subject area adopted
41 by other states, countries, and entities;

42 (3) collect feedback on the existing State standards from
43 teachers, parents, and other stakeholders through the development
44 of an online survey and make feedback available to the public via
45 Internet posting;

46 (4) solicit feedback from appropriate content related
47 professional organizations, associations, and societies; and

1 (5) write a report detailing the strengths and weaknesses of the
2 standards.

3 Under the bill, each subcommittee will revise the standards to
4 reflect its research findings. In lieu of revisions, a subcommittee
5 may recommend the adoption of a highly-regarded set of standards
6 from another state or country or by working with a consortium of
7 states to revise and develop a set of standards. The subcommittee
8 will then submit the revised standards to the Core Curriculum
9 Content Standards Advisory Council for its review and approval.
10 Upon the receipt of revised standards from a subcommittee, the
11 Core Curriculum Content Standards Advisory Council will review
12 and finalize the standards before forwarding them to the
13 Commissioner of Education for consideration and adoption by the
14 State Board of Education. The Commissioner of Education may
15 submit standards to the State Board of Education that are different
16 than those submitted by the Core Curriculum Content Standards
17 Advisory Council, along with a written justification and explanation
18 of any changes that were made.