

ASSEMBLY, No. 1908

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)

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District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight and
Assemblyman Zwicker**

SYNOPSIS

Requires establishment of Work and Learn Consortiums by certain educational institutions to establish certificate and degree programs identified in high labor-demand industries.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the establishment of Work and Learn
2 Consortiums by certain educational institutions and
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Guided pathway” means a set map of courses that are clearly
10 identified and aligned with further education and career
11 advancement. A guided pathway shows a student the entire
12 program of study from its beginning to its end.

13 “Program” means a program operated by a Work and Learn
14 Consortium established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

15 “Stackable credentials” means industry-recognized, short-term
16 credentials and certificates that count toward a higher-level certificate
17 or degree so that individuals may advance in employment and training
18 over the course of their careers.

19 “Stop-out point” means a point at which a student may exit a
20 program with an industry-valued credential, with the opportunity to
21 re-enter the program without penalty or loss of progress.

22
23 2. a. A county college and a county vocational school district
24 shall enter into a Work and Learn Consortium for the purpose of
25 creating certificate and degree programs that lead to employment in
26 industries in which there is a high demand for qualified employees.
27 The consortium shall work in partnership with the New Jersey
28 Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the local
29 workforce investment board to address the highest areas of labor
30 demand in New Jersey as identified by the department.

31 b. The purpose of the programs developed by a consortium
32 shall be to: foster collaboration between academic and non-
33 academic entities; provide students with an opportunity to earn
34 stackable credentials that will increase the likelihood of
35 employment in industries of high demand and future growth in the
36 State; develop a guided pathway for students to earn those
37 credentials; and allow enrolled students to choose among multiple
38 program stop-out points.

39
40 3. A Work and Learn Consortium shall include the following
41 components:

42 a. The county vocational school district shall award the high
43 school diploma, provide training, and award early certificates.

44 b. The county college shall:

- 45 (1) award certificates and the associate degree;
46 (2) coordinate the program’s internship component;
47 (3) develop the guided pathway;

- 1 (4) provide student advising services and student support
2 services; and
- 3 (5) award prior learning assessment credits for experience and
4 knowledge acquired while working.
- 5 c. The local workforce investment board shall:
- 6 (1) identify business and industries that have a workforce
7 demand; and
- 8 (2) assist in the recruitment of persons who are unemployed or
9 want to change career.
- 10 The local workforce investment board shall have a satellite location
11 on the county college campus.
- 12 d. A Work and Learn Consortium shall work to form
13 partnerships with:
- 14 (1) four-year public or independent institutions of higher
15 education to provide additional certificates and baccalaureate
16 degrees under the stackable credentials program;
- 17 (2) the local chamber of commerce in order to identify business
18 and industry partners and to market and promote the consortium;
19 and
- 20 (3) business and industry in order to identify industry trends and
21 required certifications, credentials, and training, and to provide
22 internships to enrolled students.
- 23 e. There shall be an advisory board for each Work and Learn
24 Consortium program. The Department of Labor and Workforce
25 Development, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and
26 the Department of Education shall provide support to the advisory
27 board, and shall share trend analysis data related to economic
28 growth.
- 29
- 30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires a county college and a county vocational
36 school district to enter into a Work and Learn Consortium for the
37 purpose of creating certificate and degree programs that lead to
38 employment in industries in which there is a high demand for
39 qualified employees.

40 The consortium will work in partnership with the New Jersey
41 Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the local
42 workforce investment board to address the highest areas of labor
43 demand in New Jersey as identified by the department. The
44 purpose of the programs developed by a consortium will be to:
45 foster collaboration between academic and non-academic entities;
46 provide students with the opportunity to earn stackable credentials
47 that will increase the likelihood of employment in industries of high
48 demand and future growth in the State; develop a guided pathway

1 for students to earn those credentials; and allow enrolled students to
2 choose among multiple program stop-out points. The bill defines a
3 “stop-out point” as a point at which a student may exit a program
4 with an industry-valued credential, with the opportunity to re-enter
5 the program without penalty or loss of progress. “Stackable
6 credentials” are industry-recognized, short-term credentials and
7 certificates that count toward a higher-level certificate or degree so
8 that individuals may advance in employment and training over the
9 course of their careers. A “guided pathway” is a set map of courses
10 that are clearly identified and aligned with further education and
11 career advancement, and shows a student the entire program of
12 study from its beginning to its end.

13 The bill outlines the role and responsibilities of each entity that
14 is a member of the consortium including the county vocational
15 school district, the county college, and the local workforce
16 investment board. The bill directs a consortium to work to form
17 partnerships with: four-year public or independent institutions of
18 higher education to provide additional certificates and baccalaureate
19 degrees under consortium programs; business and industry to
20 identify required credentials and training and to provide internships
21 to enrolled students; and the local chamber of commerce to identify
22 business and industry partners and to market and promote the
23 consortium.

24 There will be an advisory board for each program offered by the
25 Work and Learn Consortium. The Department of Labor and
26 Workforce Development, the Office of the Secretary of Higher
27 Education, and the Department of Education will provide support to
28 the advisory boards and share trend analysis data related to
29 economic growth.