

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2455**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 37 (Bergen)**

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**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

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Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen Jasey,  
Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Calabrese, McKeon, Assemblywoman  
DiMaso, Senators Pou, Thompson, Bateman and Turner**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes pilot program in DOE to support FIRST Robotics Programs in school districts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee on February 22, 2021, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a robotics competition pilot program in the  
2 Department of Education.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-year  
8 pilot program that provides grant funding to <sup>1</sup>encourage and support<sup>1</sup>  
9 school districts to <sup>1</sup>establish For Inspiration and Recognition of  
10 Science and Technology (FIRST) nonprofit organization's robotics  
11 programs and<sup>1</sup> participate in <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> FIRST Robotics <sup>1</sup>**【Competitions】**  
12 Competition<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to:

13 (1) increase opportunities for students to participate in <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> FIRST  
14 Robotics <sup>1</sup>**【Competitions】** Competition<sup>1</sup>;

15 (2) motivate students to pursue education and career opportunities  
16 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

17 (3) improve students' knowledge in the fields of science,  
18 technology, engineering, and mathematics.

19 b. A school district that wants to participate in the pilot program  
20 shall submit an application to the commissioner in such form as  
21 required by the commissioner. The school district shall select no more  
22 than one school serving students from grades nine through 12 to  
23 participate in the pilot program.

24 c. The commissioner shall select up to 12 school districts for  
25 participation in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select  
26 districts in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State and  
27 shall seek a cross section of school districts from urban, suburban, and  
28 rural areas of the State. The <sup>1</sup>school districts selected by the<sup>1</sup>  
29 commissioner shall <sup>1</sup>**【award】** be eligible for<sup>1</sup> grants, within the limit  
30 of available <sup>1</sup>**【State appropriations】** funds that are donated pursuant to  
31 subsection d. of this section<sup>1</sup>, to <sup>1</sup>**【selected school districts to】**<sup>1</sup> be  
32 used to support the development and implementation of a FIRST  
33 <sup>1</sup>**【Robotics Program】** robotics program<sup>1</sup> in the selected schools. The  
34 <sup>1</sup>**【commissioner】** FIRST nonprofit organization<sup>1</sup> shall determine the  
35 amount of each grant awarded under the program and may award  
36 multi-year grants. Grants awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be  
37 used by school districts to provide coaching stipends, purchase  
38 materials for competitions, finance competition travel expenses, and  
39 register for events. School districts selected by the commissioner to  
40 participate in the pilot program may apply for additional funding as  
41 teams in the school district become eligible to participate in <sup>1</sup>the<sup>1</sup>  
42 FIRST <sup>1</sup>**【Robotics Program's】** robotics program's<sup>1</sup> district, district  
43 championship, and world championship events.

44 d. <sup>1</sup>The commissioner shall collaborate with the FIRST nonprofit  
45 organization, educational advocacy groups, and private sector

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AST committee amendments adopted February 22, 2021.

1 businesses to encourage and identify the donation of funds for the  
2 purpose of awarding grants pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

3 e.<sup>1</sup> Three years following the establishment of the pilot program,  
4 the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the  
5 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).  
6 The report shall contain information on the implementation of the pilot  
7 program, the number of students participating in the program, and the  
8 recommendations of the commissioner on continuing, expanding, or  
9 modifying the program.

10

11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.