

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5752

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Lopez**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Commissioner of Corrections to appoint workforce skills training development officer to administer, enhance, and supplement inmate workforce skills training programming.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning inmate workforce skills training and amending  
2 P.L.2009, c.330.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L. 2009, c.330 (C.30:4-92.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. The Commissioner of Corrections, in consultation with the  
10 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, shall  
11 establish a mandatory workforce skills training program in each  
12 State correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the Department  
13 of Corrections. The program shall be administered by a workforce  
14 skills training development officer who shall be appointed by the  
15 Commissioner of Corrections to enhance and supplement the  
16 workforce skills training programming currently available to  
17 inmates in each State correctional facility. In administering the  
18 mandatory workforce training program in each State Correctional  
19 facility, the workforce skills training development officer shall:

20 (1) improve upon the facility's most successful workforce skills  
21 training program offerings as determined by the rate of enrollment  
22 and completion of the programs;

23 (2) introduce new workforce skills training program offerings to  
24 inmates of the facility; and

25 (3) provide workforce skills training programming, to be  
26 modified as needed, which is consistent with actual post-release  
27 employment opportunities and reflects the State's emerging industry  
28 and business workforce needs.

29 a. The requirement of participating in a workforce skills  
30 training program shall apply to an inmate who:

31 (1) is in the custody of the Department of Corrections on the  
32 effective date of P.L.2009, c.330 (C.30:4-92.1 et al.);

33 (2) has 18 months or more remaining to be served before a  
34 mandatory release date; and

35 (3) is not exempted due to a medical, developmental, or learning  
36 disability.

37 b. The mandatory workforce skills training program  
38 requirement may be deferred for an inmate who is serving a  
39 sentence exceeding 10 years.

40 c. The workforce skills training program shall contain a  
41 computer literacy component, including instruction on word  
42 processing, typing, Internet navigation, and use of e-mail.

43 d. An inmate who satisfactorily participates in the mandatory  
44 workforce skills training program shall be eligible for commutation  
45 time for good behavior pursuant to R.S.30:4-140 or credits for

**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.

1 diligent application to work and other institutional assignments  
2 pursuant to R.S.30:4-92.

3 e. The commissioner shall report to the State Parole Board the  
4 progress of an inmate participating in the mandatory workforce  
5 skills training program.

6 f. The commissioner, in consultation with the workforce skills  
7 training development officer and the Commissioner of Labor and  
8 Workforce Development, shall promulgate, pursuant to the  
9 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
10 seq.) the rules and regulations that are necessary to implement the  
11 provisions of P.L.2009, c.330 (C.30:4-92.1 et al.). These rules and  
12 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions to:

13 (1) determine when an inmate shall be exempted from the  
14 mandatory workforce skills training requirement due to a medical,  
15 developmental, or learning disability as authorized under paragraph  
16 (3) of subsection a. of this section; and

17 (2) authorize these exempted inmates to voluntarily participate  
18 in the mandatory workforce skills training program.

19 g. In order to administer, enhance, and supplement the  
20 workforce skills training programming available at a State  
21 correctional facility in accordance with this section, the workforce  
22 skills training development officer, on a regular basis but not less  
23 than once per year, shall meet with a representative of the New  
24 Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey State  
25 Building and Construction Trades Council, and the New Jersey  
26 Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools.

27 (cf: P.L.2009, c.330, s.1)

28

29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month  
30 next following the day of enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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35 This requires the Commissioner of Corrections to appoint a  
36 workforce skills training development officer to administer,  
37 enhance, and supplement the workforce skills training programming  
38 for inmates in State correctional facilities.

39 Under current law, the Commissioner of Corrections, in  
40 consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce  
41 Development, is required to establish a mandatory workforce skills  
42 training program in each State correctional facility. This bill  
43 requires the Commissioner of Corrections to appoint a workforce  
44 skills training development officer to administer, enhance, and  
45 supplement these programs.

46 In administering the mandatory workforce training program in  
47 each State Correctional facility, the workforce skills training  
48 development officer is required to: improve upon the facility's most

1 successful workforce skills training program offerings, as  
2 determined by the rate of enrollment and completion of the  
3 programs; introduce new workforce skills training program  
4 offerings to inmates of the facility; and provide workforce skills  
5 training programming, to be modified as needed, which is  
6 consistent with actual post-release employment opportunities and  
7 reflects the State's emerging industry and business workforce needs.

8 In addition, the workforce skills training development officer is  
9 required under the bill, on a regular basis but not less than once per  
10 year, to meet with a representative of the New Jersey Business and  
11 Industry Association, the New Jersey State Building and  
12 Construction Trades Council, and the New Jersey Council of  
13 County Vocational-Technical Schools in order to administer,  
14 enhance, and supplement the workforce skills training programming  
15 available at a State correctional facility.

16 The provisions of the bill also require the Commissioner of  
17 Corrections to consult with the workforce skills training  
18 development officer in promulgating any rules and regulations  
19 necessary for the implementation of the mandatory workforce skills  
20 training program.