

ASSEMBLY, No. 5845

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Vainieri Huttie

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program; appropriates \$10,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award
2 Program, supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes,
3 and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. The Amistad Commission shall establish the “Amistad
9 Commission Exemplary Award Program.” The purpose of the
10 program is to identify outstanding educators, and the school district
11 in which the educator is employed, for special recognition who have
12 shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the
13 African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in
14 this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our
15 society.

16 b. The commission shall invite school districts, charter schools,
17 and renaissance school projects to submit nominations, on an
18 application to be developed by the commission, by February 1 of
19 each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for
20 efforts to:

21 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
22 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
23 development of New Jersey and the United States;

24 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
25 who previously may not have learned about past and living
26 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
27 positive impacts upon the American story; and

28 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
29 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
30 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
31 study may be replicated by other educators.

32 c. Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award
33 shall be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary
34 Award Committee. The committee shall be an ad hoc committee,
35 the members of which, except for the executive director of the
36 Amistad Commission, shall be appointed annually. The committee
37 shall be comprised of the following members:

38 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

39 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
40 Senate;

41 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
42 Speaker of the General Assembly;

43 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
44 Association;

45 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
46 Supervisors Association; and

1 (6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a
2 designee, who shall serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission
3 Exemplary Award Committee.

4 d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to
5 receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher
6 from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades
7 kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that
8 provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12.
9 Recipients of this award shall each receive \$2,500 in recognition of
10 their extraordinary contributions.

11 e. Each school district in which the award recipient selected
12 pursuant to the provisions of subsection d. of this section is
13 employed shall also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary
14 Award. Each school district that receives an award under the
15 provisions of this subsection shall receive \$2,500, which shall be
16 used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the
17 curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.

18
19 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
20 \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of
21 this act.

22
23 3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
24 following the date of enactment.

25
26
27 STATEMENT

28
29 This bill establishes the “Amistad Commission Exemplary
30 Award Program.” The purpose of the program is to identify
31 outstanding educators, and the school district in which the educator
32 is employed, for special recognition who have shown a commitment
33 to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery
34 in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the
35 contributions of African-Americans to our society.

36 Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance
37 school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be
38 developed by the commission, by February 1 of each year of an
39 exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

40 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
41 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
42 development of New Jersey and the United States;

43 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
44 who previously may not have learned about past and living
45 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
46 positive impacts upon the American story; and

47 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
48 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment

1 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
2 study may be replicated by other educators.

3 Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award will
4 be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award
5 Committee. The committee will be an ad hoc committee, the
6 members of which, except for the executive director of the Amistad
7 Commission, will be appointed annually. The committee will
8 consist of:

9 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

10 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
11 Senate;

12 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
13 Speaker of the General Assembly;

14 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
15 Association;

16 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
17 Supervisors Association; and

18 (6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a
19 designee, who will serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission
20 Exemplary Award Committee.

21 Under the bill, the award committee will annually select two
22 teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award:
23 one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the
24 grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school
25 that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12.
26 Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of
27 their extraordinary contributions.

28 Under the bill, each school district in which the teacher award
29 recipient is employed will also receive the Amistad Commission
30 Exemplary Award. Each school district that receives an award will
31 receive \$2,500, which will be used to assist other teachers in the
32 school district implement the curriculum and teaching techniques of
33 the teacher award recipient.

34 The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000
35 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of this bill.