

SENATE, No. 469

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program in DCA to provide funding to youth mentoring programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a grant program for certain mentoring
2 programs and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. As used in this act. “mentoring services” means a
8 program administered by a duly incorporated non-profit
9 organization in which persons provide advice, support, opinion or
10 instruction to persons 21 years of age or younger in an effort to
11 direct that person’s judgment or conduct in a positive manner.

12 b. The Commissioner of Community Affairs, in consultation
13 with the Attorney General, shall establish a program to provide
14 grants to organizations which provide mentoring services as defined
15 in this section. The grant program shall be administered by the
16 commissioner. Preference shall be given to those programs which
17 provide youth with alternatives to membership in or association
18 with criminal street gangs.

19 c. An organization which elects to participate in the grant
20 program shall submit an application to the commissioner in such
21 form as prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall
22 outline the applicant’s program or program proposal, sample
23 activities, social service offerings, existing funds and the amount of
24 the grant request.

25 d. Based upon the application, and subject to the availability of
26 funds, the commissioner shall award a grant to each approved grant
27 applicant to assist in establishing or maintaining the mentoring
28 program. The commissioner, to the extent possible, shall equitably
29 distribute grant awards to successful applicants in northern, central
30 and southern counties of the State, and shall include programs in
31 urban, suburban and rural areas.

32 e. Any mentoring organization that is awarded a grant shall
33 report on an annual basis to the commissioner on the status of its
34 program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information
35 on number of participants, the hours of program operation, regular
36 program activities, and the number and qualifications of program
37 staff, including volunteers. The report shall be used by the
38 commissioner to evaluate future grant applications.

39 f. Pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
40 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) the commissioner may
41 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the
42 provisions of this act.

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44 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
45 after enactment, but subsection f. of section 1 shall take effect
46 immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Commissioner of Community Affairs, in consultation with the Attorney General, to establish a program to provide grants to organizations which provide mentoring. The grant program is to be administered by the commissioner. Preference would be given to those programs which provide youth with alternatives to membership in or association with criminal street gangs.

The commissioner, to the extent possible, is to equitably distribute grant awards to successful applicants in northern, central and southern counties of the State, and to include programs in urban, suburban and rural areas.

Any mentoring organization that is awarded a grant is required to report on an annual basis to the commissioner the status of its program. The report is to include, but not be limited to, information on the number of participants, the hours of program operation, regular program activities, and the number and qualifications of program staff, including volunteers. These reports would be used by the commissioner to evaluate future grant applications.