

SENATE, No. 588

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Career and Technical Education and creates initiatives that promote career and technical education programs in State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning career and technical education and
2 supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established a Commission on Career and
8 Technical Education. The purpose of the commission is to study
9 and evaluate the availability of high quality secondary career and
10 technical education programs across counties, including programs
11 offered by county vocational school districts and programs offered
12 by other school districts, and to review the costs, benefits, and
13 challenges associated with potential expansion.

14 b. The commission shall consist of the following 11 members:

15 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall
16 serve ex officio;

17 (2) the Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education
18 in the Department of Education; and

19 (3) 9 members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
20 three superintendents of a county vocational school district upon the
21 recommendation of the New Jersey Council of County Vocational-
22 Technical Schools; one principal of a public school operating a
23 career and technical education program; two teachers employed in a
24 public school career and technical education program; one member
25 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Education
26 Association; one member from the New Jersey Business and
27 Industry Association; and one member from the New Jersey
28 Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools.

29 c. Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30
30 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the
31 membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner
32 as the original appointments were made. Members of the
33 commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be
34 reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance
35 of their duties as members of the commission within the limits of
36 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the commission
37 for its purposes.

38

39 2. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
40 following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
41 after the effective date of this act. The commission shall choose a
42 chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a secretary
43 who need not be a member of the commission.

44

45 3. The Department of Education shall provide such
46 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
47 professional staff as the commission requires to carry out its work.
48 The commission also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and

1 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
2 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
3 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

4
5 4. The commission shall study and evaluate:

6 a. the equity in the number and scope of career and technical
7 education programs available across counties;

8 b. options to improve the availability of high quality career and
9 technical education programs so that more students can be served;
10 and

11 c. the costs, benefits, and challenges associated with the
12 expansion of approved career and technical education programs
13 throughout the State.

14
15 5. a. The commission shall issue a final report to the Governor,
16 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
17 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the commission
18 organizes. The report shall contain the commission's findings and
19 recommendations regarding the expansion of career and technical
20 education programs in the State.

21 b. The commission shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its
22 final report.

23
24 6. Except as otherwise provided pursuant to section 14 of
25 P.L.2007, c.137 (C.18A:7G-45), a county vocational school district
26 operating a career and technical education program shall have the
27 right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market
28 value, a closed public school facility or property located in the same
29 county.

30
31 7. The principal of a public school with students enrolled in
32 grades 6 through 12 shall take such action as is necessary to
33 promote an interest in and increase awareness of educational
34 opportunities available through career and technical education
35 programs offered by the district, local charter schools, and the
36 county vocational school district. Such actions shall include, but
37 need not be limited to:

38 a. making an annual announcement to the student body at a
39 student assembly or similar event about career and technical
40 education opportunities;

41 b. making an annual announcement to parents and guardians at
42 the school's annual back-to-school night or similar event about
43 career and technical education opportunities; and

44 c. annually posting an announcement on the school district
45 website or sending an annual notice or email to students and parents
46 or guardians about career and technical education opportunities.

- 1 • grants the right of first refusal to a county vocational
2 school district operating a career and technical education
3 program to purchase or lease at or below fair market
4 value, a closed public school facility or property located
5 in the same county;
- 6 • requires the principal of a public school with students
7 enrolled in grades 6 through 12 to take specific actions
8 that will promote an interest in and increase awareness of
9 educational opportunities available through career and
10 technical education programs offered by the district, local
11 charter schools, and the county vocational school district;
- 12 • directs the Department of Education to provide on its
13 website information on best practices in the field of career
14 and technical education;
- 15 • provides that the Commissioner of Education will
16 give preference to an application for a charter school that
17 proposes to offer an approved career and technical
18 education program that is not duplicative of programs
19 offered in the resident district or county vocational school
20 district; and
- 21 • provides that the Commissioner of Education will
22 give preference to an application submitted by a proposed
23 choice district under the “Interdistrict Public School
24 Choice Program” that offers an approved career and
25 technical education program that is not duplicative of
26 programs offered in the county vocational school district.