

SENATE, No. 2540

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Weinberg, Diegnan, Greenstein and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Co-Curricular Activity Emergency Grant Program to support operations of co-curricular activities at public schools; appropriates \$750,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Co-Curricular Activity Emergency Grant
2 Program, supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the
9 Co-Curricular Activity Emergency Grant Program. The grant
10 program shall provide funds to selected school districts, charter
11 schools, and renaissance schools to support the continued
12 operations of co-curricular activities at public schools.

13 b. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school may
14 apply to the department for a grant. Funds awarded through the
15 grant program shall be dedicated to supporting the operations of one
16 or more co-curricular activities offered to students who attend the
17 recipient school district, charter school, or renaissance school.
18 When submitting an application, the school district, charter school,
19 or renaissance school shall designate the co-curricular activities to
20 which grant funding would be dedicated.

21 c. The grants shall be awarded in amounts determined by the
22 Commissioner of Education. When awarding grants, the
23 commissioner may give preference to applicants that experienced
24 the largest reduction in revenues due to the outbreak of COVID-19,
25 or dedicate funding to specific co-curricular activities.

26 d. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410
27 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), or any other law to the contrary, the
28 commissioner may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office
29 of Administrative Law and no later than the 90th day after the
30 effective date of this act, such rules and regulations as the
31 commissioner deems necessary to implement the provisions of this
32 act, which regulations shall be effective for a period not to exceed
33 12 months. The regulations shall, at a minimum, set forth the
34 requirements for application submissions, the criteria for
35 application selections, and the eligible uses of grant funds. The
36 regulations shall thereafter be amended, adopted, or readopted by
37 the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of
38 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

39 e. As used in this section, “co-curricular activity” means a
40 voluntary activity or program that is conducted outside of regular
41 school hours and supplements the academic experience of
42 participating students, including such activities as model United
43 Nations, debate competitions, theatrical performances, musical
44 performances, and other academic-related activities.

45
46 2. There is appropriated \$750,000 from the General Fund to the
47 Department of Education for the Co-Curricular Activity Emergency
48 Grant Program.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill establishes a Co-Curricular Activity Emergency Grant
7 Program in the Department of Education to support the continued
8 operations of certain academic-related, co-curricular activities that
9 are offered to students by public schools.

10 The bill permits any school district, charter school, or
11 renaissance school to apply to the Department of Education for a
12 co-curricular activity emergency grant. Each grant would be
13 dedicated to supporting the operations of one or more co-curricular
14 activities that are offered to students who attend the recipient
15 school. When submitting an application, the school district, charter
16 school, or renaissance school would be required to designate the co-
17 curricular activities to which grant funding would be dedicated.

18 Under the bill, each grant would be awarded in an amount
19 determined by the Commissioner of Education. When awarding
20 grants, the commissioner may give preference to applicants that
21 experienced the largest reduction in revenues due to the outbreak of
22 COVID-19, or dedicate funding to specific co-curricular activities.

23 As used in the bill, a “co-curricular activity” means a voluntary
24 activity or program that is conducted outside of regular school
25 hours and supplements the academic experience of participating
26 students, including such activities as model United Nations, debate
27 competitions, theatrical performances, musical performances, and
28 other academic-related activities.

29 The bill also appropriates \$750,000 from the General Fund to
30 support the operations of the grant program.