

SENATE, No. 3974

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 17, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Manufacturing Workforce Development Grant Program” for students enrolled at county colleges.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning internship and career opportunities for students
2 enrolled at county colleges and supplementing chapter 64A of
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with
9 the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, shall
10 create the “Manufacturing Workforce Development Grant Program”
11 to encourage county colleges in the State to partner with local
12 manufacturers to provide students with internship opportunities.
13 The purpose of the program shall be to prepare students for entry
14 into the workforce by providing real workplace experiences as a
15 complement to traditional classroom instruction. Students who
16 successfully complete the program shall receive academic credit for
17 their participation, while earning a stipend funded by the program.

18 b. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the
19 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the New
20 Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, shall develop a list of
21 approved manufacturers that county colleges shall partner with for
22 the program. The secretary shall issue a request for proposals
23 within 30 days of the effective date of this section to all county
24 colleges detailing the purpose of the program, the application
25 process and required documentation, evaluation criteria, and the
26 submission timeline.

27 The secretary shall award grants, within the limits of available
28 appropriations, to selected county colleges to be used to support the
29 development of internship opportunities for students. The secretary
30 shall determine the amount of each grant awarded under the
31 program and may award multi-year grants.

32 c. A county college that wishes to participate in the program
33 shall submit an application to the secretary on such forms and in
34 such a manner as determined by the secretary. The application shall
35 include:

36 (1) a memorandum of understanding between the county college
37 and a local manufacturer including, but not limited to, the
38 responsibilities of each partner, a description of the work to be
39 performed by student interns, and the process by which a student
40 may earn an offer of employment or a promise of employment from
41 the manufacturer after completion of an associate’s degree and upon
42 successful completion of an internship under the program;

43 (2) a description of current or proposed course offerings at the
44 county college and how those course offerings will help students
45 complement and reinforce the work skills and knowledge acquired
46 through participation in the program;

47 (3) the application process for students seeking admission into
48 the program;

- 1 (4) the selection criteria that will be used by the county college
2 in evaluating whether a student will be accepted into the program;
- 3 (5) the number of students the county college will accept into
4 the program each academic year;
- 5 (6) a description of how students accepted into the program will
6 be matched with an approved manufacturer;
- 7 (7) a description of how the internships offered through the
8 college will provide real workplace experiences and promote the
9 mastery of occupation-specific or transferable skills; and
- 10 (8) the number of credits a student may be awarded towards the
11 completion of an associate's degree program upon successful
12 completion of an internship under the program.
- 13 Priority status shall be given to county colleges that demonstrate
14 that one or more proposed manufacturing internships to be offered
15 by the college are in careers designated as labor demand
16 occupations as defined in section 3 of P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-
17 3).
- 18 To the maximum extent possible, the department shall select
19 county colleges from the northern, central, and southern regions of
20 the State and shall select a cross section of colleges in urban,
21 suburban, and rural areas.
- 22 d. Grants shall be awarded on an annual basis and subject to
23 the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to
24 effectuate the purposes of this section. Eighty-five percent of all
25 funds received by a recipient county college shall be used to fund
26 student stipends for hours worked at a program internship. Fifteen
27 percent of all funds received by a recipient county college shall be
28 used to cover costs incurred while administering the program, fund
29 career counselor positions to assist students accepted into the
30 program, and for any other purposes as may be approved by the
31 secretary to meet the program's objectives.
- 32 e. The secretary shall submit an annual report by December 31
33 of each year to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
34 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning:
- 35 (1) the number of new and current partnerships created by each
36 county college with local manufacturers;
- 37 (2) the total number of students participating in the program;
- 38 (3) a description of the various work skills students have learned
39 or refined through participation in the program;
- 40 (4) the number of students in the program who have transferred
41 to a four-year institution of higher education;
- 42 (5) the number of students who received offers of employment
43 upon successful completion of a program internship;
- 44 (6) the amount of money distributed through the program and
45 the purposes for which those funds have been used; and
- 46 (7) any other information deemed relevant by the secretary.

