

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4212

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Chaparro, Assemblymen Space, Wirths, Freiman and  
Senator Turner**

### SYNOPSIS

Establishes Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey at Thomas Edison State University.

### CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Labor Committee on December 14, 2023, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing the Center for Career Relevant Education and  
 2 Talent Evaluation of New Jersey, <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> supplementing chapter  
 3 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes<sup>1</sup>, and making an  
 4 appropriation<sup>1</sup>.

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

8  
 9 1. a. There is established at Thomas Edison State University  
 10 the Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of  
 11 New Jersey, also known as CreateNJ. The purpose of the center  
 12 shall be to maximize <sup>1</sup>[collaboration] collaborations<sup>1</sup> between  
 13 <sup>1</sup>[institutions of higher education and] employers,<sup>1</sup> partner  
 14 organizations<sup>1</sup>, and institutions of higher education<sup>1</sup> that develop  
 15 and implement career pathways for nontraditional students and  
 16 workers and workforce development programs. The center shall be  
 17 the State's central resource <sup>1</sup>[to evaluate] for the evaluation<sup>1</sup> and  
 18 <sup>1</sup>[translate] translation of<sup>1</sup> learning experiences<sup>1</sup> into a validated  
 19 record of academic credit, career credentials, pre-apprenticeship and  
 20 apprenticeship credits, and pertinent knowledge, skills, and  
 21 abilities. The validated record developed by the center pursuant to  
 22 this section shall be known as the <sup>1</sup>[New Jersey] CreateNJ<sup>1</sup>  
 23 Workforce Transcript.

24 b. (1) The Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent  
 25 Evaluation of New Jersey shall establish a steering committee, the  
 26 purpose of which is to foster partnerships <sup>1</sup>[between] among  
 27 education,<sup>1</sup> government and industry for the mapping of credentials  
 28 and to contribute to the direction and sustainability of the center.  
 29 Members of the steering committee shall serve in an advisory  
 30 capacity only. The members shall serve without compensation but  
 31 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
 32 performance of their duties.

33 (2) The steering committee shall <sup>1</sup>consist of 12 members and  
 34 shall<sup>1</sup> be co-chaired by the President of Thomas Edison State  
 35 University and the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce  
 36 Development, or their designees. Other members of the steering  
 37 committee shall include, but <sup>1</sup>[need]<sup>1</sup> not be limited to,  
 38 <sup>1</sup>[representatives] one representative<sup>1</sup> from each of<sup>1</sup> the following:

39 (a) the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law  
 40 and Public Safety;

41 (b) the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education;

42 (c) the Department of Education;

43 (d) the <sup>1</sup>[New Jersey Council of County Colleges] Economic  
 44 Development Authority<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>[and]<sup>1</sup>

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is  
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ALA committee amendments adopted December 14, 2023.

- 1 (e) the New Jersey Business and Industry Association<sup>1</sup>; and  
2 (f) the New Jersey Council of County Colleges<sup>1</sup>.

3 <sup>1</sup>The steering committee shall also include three representatives  
4 of the New Jersey Presidents' Council, preferably each from  
5 different sectors.<sup>1</sup>

6 c. The Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent  
7 Evaluation of New Jersey shall establish a database that houses all  
8 of the skills or credits credentialed or accepted by Thomas Edison  
9 State University <sup>1</sup>[or] <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> other <sup>1</sup>voluntarily<sup>1</sup> participating  
10 institutions of higher education <sup>1</sup>[pursuant to this section]<sup>1</sup>. The  
11 inclusion of an individual's higher education credit equivalencies or  
12 identified skills in the database shall be voluntary in nature, and  
13 participation shall be indicated by informed consent. Thomas  
14 Edison State University shall maintain the credits obtained through  
15 any evaluation of learning pursuant to this section by following  
16 national best practices and processes and by complying with  
17 applicable State and federal <sup>1</sup>privacy<sup>1</sup> laws and other guidelines and  
18 requirements for institutional accreditation from the Middle States  
19 Commission on Higher Education.

20 d. As permitted by law, Thomas Edison State University may  
21 enter into contracts with public or private individuals,  
22 organizations, and institutions <sup>1</sup>[necessary for the performance of  
23 its duties pursuant to this section] to advance the purposes of this  
24 act<sup>1</sup>. The Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent  
25 Evaluation of New Jersey shall apply for and accept grant funds, or  
26 any other funds, to support the operations and duties of the center,  
27 as made available by the federal government, private foundations or  
28 entities, or any other sources.

29 e. Thomas Edison State University may hire such additional  
30 staff as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this  
31 section.

32 f. The Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent  
33 Evaluation of New Jersey may <sup>1</sup>[collect] assess<sup>1</sup> fees <sup>1</sup>[from  
34 organizations using approved credentials or professional learning  
35 assessments maintained by Thomas Edison State University, from  
36 individuals utilizing the New Jersey Workforce Transcript pursuant  
37 to this section, or from other entities or individuals using the  
38 services provided by the center] for the utilization of the database  
39 and transcript generation<sup>1</sup>. Any fee or other revenue collected by  
40 the center shall be used to fund the operations of the center.

41  
42 <sup>1</sup>[2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to Thomas  
43 Edison State University the sum of \$2,000,000 for the purposes of  
44 this act.]<sup>1</sup>

45  
46 <sup>1</sup>[3.] 2.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.