

ASSEMBLY, No. 4361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblymen Umba and
Sauickie**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “VETeach Pilot Program” in DOE to facilitate teacher certification of veterans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the
2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title
3 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. There is established in the Department of Education a
9 four-year “VETeach Pilot Program.” The purpose of the pilot
10 program shall be to address the shortage of certified public school
11 teachers, by taking advantage of the qualified workforce
12 represented by the State’s veterans. The pilot program shall
13 facilitate the teacher certification of veterans in order to advance the
14 State’s goals of ensuring a qualified public school workforce and
15 addressing the high rate of unemployment among returning
16 veterans.

17 b. Under the pilot program, Rowan University shall enroll, in a
18 36-month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of students
19 who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who served
20 on or after September 11, 2001. The program shall lead to a
21 baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements necessary
22 to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate of
23 eligibility with advanced standing.

24 c. Rowan University shall establish, with the approval of the
25 State Board of Education, the coherent sequence of courses required
26 to be completed by a student under the pilot program in order to be
27 eligible to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.
28 A certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued to a
29 student who completes the pilot program shall authorize the student
30 to seek employment as a teacher in grades kindergarten through
31 eight, and in certain secondary education fields.

32 d. Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner
33 shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
34 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the number of
35 veterans who enrolled in the teacher preparation program
36 established under the pilot program, the number of veterans who
37 were hired as teachers in public or nonpublic schools, and the
38 advisability of the establishment of similar programs on a
39 permanent basis.

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41 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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44 STATEMENT

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46 This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the
47 Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to
48 address the shortage of certified public school teachers by taking

1 advantage of the qualified workforce represented by the State's
2 veterans.

3 Under the pilot program, Rowan University will enroll, in a 36-
4 month teacher preparation program, veterans who served in the
5 armed forces on or after September 11, 2001. The program will
6 lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements
7 necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate
8 of eligibility with advanced standing, which will authorize the
9 veteran to seek employment as a teacher in grades kindergarten
10 through eight, and in certain secondary education fields.

11 The "VETeach Pilot Program" will provide veterans with a path
12 to education and employment. Veterans will be able to obtain
13 higher education and employment opportunities, while filling a
14 critical shortage in the teaching profession. The program may also
15 serve to attract a greater number of men and minorities, groups
16 which are currently underrepresented in the teaching profession.