## ASSEMBLY, No. 4361 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

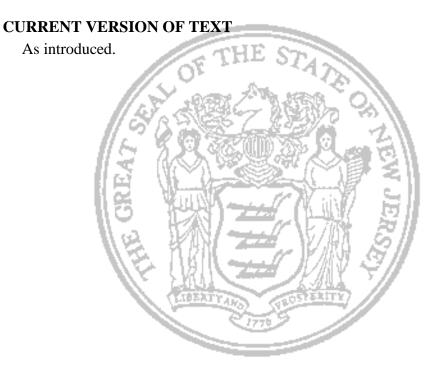
INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2022

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.



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

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AN ACT establishing the "VETeach Pilot Program" in the
 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title
 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 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 State's goals of ensuring a qualified public school workforce and 14 15 addressing the high rate of unemployment among returning 16 veterans.

b. Under the pilot program, Rowan University shall enroll, in a 36-month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of students who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who served on or after September 11, 2001. The program shall lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate of 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 veterans who enrolled in the teacher preparation program 35 36 established under the pilot program, the number of veterans who 37 were hired as teachers in public or nonpublic schools, and the advisability of the establishment of similar programs on a 38 39 permanent basis.

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2. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

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

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

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