

[First Reprint]

**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:**

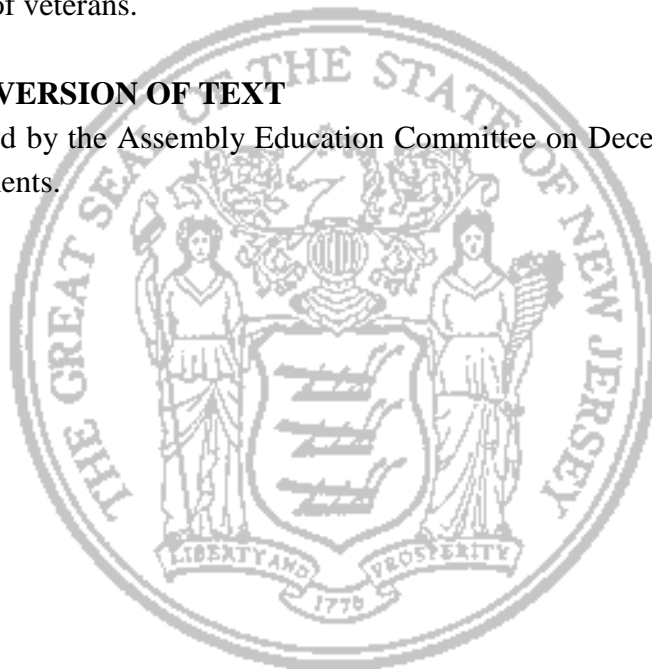
**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblymen Umba,  
Sauickie, Space, Wirths and Assemblywoman Mosquera**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

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



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)**

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:*

7  
 8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education a four-  
 9 year “VETeach Pilot Program.” The purpose of the pilot program  
 10 shall be to address the shortage of certified public school teachers, by  
 11 taking advantage of the qualified workforce represented by the State’s  
 12 veterans. The pilot program shall facilitate the teacher certification of  
 13 veterans in order to advance the State’s goals of ensuring a qualified  
 14 public school workforce and addressing the high rate of  
 15 unemployment among returning veterans.

16 b. <sup>1</sup>A four-year public institution of higher education wishing to  
 17 participate in the pilot program shall submit an application to the  
 18 Commissioner of Education in a form prescribed by the commissioner.  
 19 The commissioner shall select up to four institutions to participate in  
 20 the pilot program.

21 c.<sup>1</sup> Under the pilot program, <sup>1</sup>**[Rowan University]** a participating  
 22 four-year public institution of higher education<sup>1</sup> shall enroll, in a 36-  
 23 month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of students who  
 24 are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who served on or  
 25 after September 11, 2001. The program shall lead to a baccalaureate  
 26 degree and completion of the requirements necessary to apply to the  
 27 State Board of Examiners for a certificate of eligibility with advanced  
 28 standing.

29 <sup>1</sup>**[c. Rowan University]** d. A participating four-year public  
 30 institution of higher education<sup>1</sup> shall establish, with the approval of the  
 31 State Board of Education, the coherent sequence of courses required to  
 32 be completed by a student under the pilot program in order to be  
 33 eligible to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing. A  
 34 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued to a student who  
 35 completes the pilot program shall authorize the student to seek  
 36 employment as a teacher in grades kindergarten through eight, and in  
 37 certain secondary education fields.

38 <sup>1</sup>**[d.]** e.<sup>1</sup> Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the  
 39 commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature  
 40 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the number

**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 AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2023.

**A4361 [1R] BENSON, HAIDER**

3

1 of veterans who enrolled in the teacher preparation program  
2 established under the pilot program, the number of veterans who were  
3 hired as teachers in public or nonpublic schools, and the advisability of  
4 the establishment of similar programs on a permanent basis.

5

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.