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

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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

b. ¹A four-year public institution of higher education wishing to participate in the pilot program shall submit an application to the Commissioner of Education in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall select up to four institutions to participate in the pilot program.

¹ Under the pilot program, ¹[Rowan University] a participating four-year public institution of higher education¹ 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.

¹[Rowan University] d. A participating four-year public institution of higher education¹ shall establish, with the approval of the State Board of Education, the coherent sequence of courses required to be completed by a student under the pilot program in order to be eligible to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing. A certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued to a student who completes the pilot program shall authorize the student to seek employment as a teacher in grades kindergarten through eight, and in certain secondary education fields.

¹[¸] e.¹ Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature 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:
¹Assembly 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.