

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5417**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Matsikoudis, Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Conaway**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits limiting number of county college credits that may be applied towards educator preparation program and teacher certification requirements.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/2023)**

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter  
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,  
8 a Commissioner-approved college educator preparation program  
9 shall not restrict the number of semester-hour credits earned in the  
10 field of professional education at a county college that may be  
11 accepted toward meeting the program's requirements, except as  
12 may be otherwise required by the program's accrediting  
13 organization.

14  
15 2. The State Board of Education shall not adopt any regulation  
16 or policy which restricts the number of semester-hour credits earned  
17 in the field of professional education at a regionally accredited  
18 county college that may be accepted toward meeting the  
19 requirements for teacher certification, provided that the credits are  
20 accepted by a State-approved college professional education  
21 preparation program.

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23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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26 STATEMENT

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28 This bill streamlines the path for qualified teacher candidates to  
29 become teachers. The bill prohibits the establishment of a cap on  
30 county college credits that may be applied toward educator preparation  
31 program requirements. The bill also prohibits the State Board of  
32 Education from limiting the number of county college credits that may  
33 be applied towards teacher certification requirements.

34 Current State board regulations provide that, for most candidates  
35 for teacher certification, no more than six credits earned in the field  
36 of professional education at a county college can be applied towards  
37 meeting the requirements for teacher certification. As a result, a  
38 student who has completed more than six credits in the field of  
39 professional education at a county college prior to his or her  
40 enrollment in a bachelor's degree program at a four-year institution  
41 of higher education will have to repeat some coursework, resulting  
42 in increased education costs and a delay in program completion.  
43 This bill prohibits the State Board of Education from limiting the  
44 number of professional education credits earned at a county college  
45 that may be applied towards meeting the requirements for teacher  
46 certification, provided that the credits are accepted by a State-  
47 approved college professional education preparation program.

**A5417 LAMPITT, JASEY**

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1       This bill also prohibits a Commissioner-approved educator  
2       preparation program from capping the number of county college  
3       credits that may be accepted toward meeting the program's  
4       requirements, except as may be otherwise required by the program's  
5       accrediting organization.