[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5741

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOLWD, in collaboration with DOE, to establish database of novice teachers and to host job fairs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

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

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/30/2023)
AN ACT concerning school district staffing vacancies 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. As used in this act:

“Novice teacher” means a teacher eligible to work under a valid
certificate of eligibility or certificate of eligibility with advanced
standing who has not yet been issued a provisional certificate.

“School district” means a school district, charter school,
renaissance school project, county special services school district,
or county vocational school district.

2. a. The 1Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in
collaboration with the1 Department of Education1, shall, within 180
days of the effective date of this act, establish and maintain a database
of novice teachers that shall be available to school districts and novice
teachers to assist in filling staffing vacancies. The database shall not
be available to the general public.

b. The 1Commissioner of Education shall provide the following
information for each novice teacher to the Department of Labor and
Workforce Development to be included in the1 database 1shall
include the following information for each novice teacher established
pursuant to subsection a. of this section1:

(1) the novice teacher’s name, telephone number, email address,
and method by which a school district may contact the novice teacher;

(2) the novice teacher’s current employment status;

(3) the certificate and endorsement held by the novice teacher; and

(4) any other information the Commissioner of Education deems
necessary.

c. The 1[department] Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
Development1 shall develop a mechanism by which a novice teacher
may opt out of inclusion in the database. A novice teacher may
request to be excluded from the database at any time.

d. A novice teacher may request 1[the department limit]1 the
contact information included in the database pursuant to paragraph (1)
of subsection b. of this section 1be limited1 to a preferred method of
contact. The 1[department] Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
Development1 shall comply with a request made by a novice teacher
pursuant to this subsection.

3. a. The 1Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in
collaboration with the1 Department of Education1 shall hold three

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets 1thus1 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.
job fairs per year to assist school districts in filling staffing vacancies, with one job fair held in each of the northern, central, and southern regions of the State.

b. (1) The Commissioner of Education shall invite school districts to participate in the job fairs.

(2) The job fair shall be open to novice teachers included in the database established pursuant to section 2 of this act, individuals enrolled in an educator preparation program, and any other individual appropriately certified to work in a public school in the State.

c. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall notify each novice teacher included in the database established pursuant to section 2 of this act of the date, time, and location of each job fair.

d. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development may charge employer participants a reasonable, nominal fee to participate in a job fair held pursuant to this section. The fee obtained pursuant to this subsection shall only be used to cover costs associated with identifying and securing a location for the job fair, hospitality services, and other administrative costs as determined by the commissioner.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.