

SENATE, No. 525

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Greenstein, Pou and Zwicker

SYNOPSIS

Enhances, and allocates funds for, pre-apprenticeship programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning pre-apprenticeship programs and amending
2 P.L.1992, c.43 and P.L.1993, c.268.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 6 of P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-6) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 6. a. Each consortium which is awarded a grant from the
10 partnership shall establish a pre-apprenticeship, or school-to-
11 apprenticeship linkage program, for high school students, which shall
12 include the development of the curriculum which will best prepare
13 students to qualify for apprenticeships established under the grant,
14 thus encouraging high school completion and increasing graduation
15 rates. Grants may also be provided to a consortium pursuant to this
16 section to create new pre-apprenticeship, or linkage, programs for
17 existing apprenticeship programs. The pre-apprenticeship, or linkage
18 program may include workplace experience, but not in violation of
19 applicable child labor standards, and shall not involve any reduction
20 of the classroom time of a participating student or of academic
21 standards, other than reductions in classroom time mutually agreed
22 to by all of the entities participating in the consortium pursuant to
23 subsection a. of section 5 of P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-5). The
24 provisions of this section shall not be construed as prohibiting
25 nontraditional scheduling of classroom time. If the pre-
26 apprenticeship, or school-to-apprenticeship linkage, program
27 includes a workplace experience component:

28 (1) The student shall be regarded as a student learner **【and subject**
29 **to the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1993, c. (C.) (pending before**
30 **the Legislature as Assembly Bill, No. 2619)】** entitled to all of the
31 benefits and services provided to student learners pursuant to
32 P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-1 et seq.);

33 (2) The workplace experience component of the student learner
34 shall be regarded as a cooperative vocational 【education and subject
35 to the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1993, c. (C.) (pending before
36 the Legislature as Assembly Bill, No. 2619)】 experience subject to
37 all applicable standards promulgated by the State Department of
38 Education and the State Department of Labor and Workforce
39 Development for cooperative vocational experiences, including
40 requirements that work is under the direct supervision of a qualified
41 person, and that the student learner be provided an individualized
42 training plan outlining the tasks to be performed and the progression
43 of learning experiences, and the safety instruction and occupational
44 competencies to be learned; and

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.

1 (3) Employers participating in the consortium who hire student
2 learners shall do so based on recommendations of the students'
3 educational institutions which give consideration to the overall
4 academic achievement of the students.

5 To the greatest extent permitted by federal law, a participating
6 employer shall also consider the overall academic achievement of
7 students when selecting apprentices under the grant.

8 b. Each pre-apprenticeship, or school-to-apprenticeship, linkage
9 program shall include counseling, recruitment, training in life skills,
10 including communication, working in teams, and meeting employer
11 expectations, training in needed basic math and literacy skills,
12 including one-to-one tutoring, and supportive services, including
13 child care for student learners who are parents and transportation
14 assistance, and other services as are needed to maximize program
15 participation by women, [and] minority-group members, and
16 individuals with disabilities, who are economically disadvantaged
17 individuals, have barriers to employment, or both. The objectives of
18 these services shall include increasing the success of women in
19 nontraditional employment and encouraging greater academic
20 achievement among at-risk and other students.

21 c. Employers and other participants in a consortium, when
22 selecting applicants to participate in their apprenticeship programs,
23 shall give first priority to applicants who have successfully
24 completed the pre-apprenticeship programs and have met all other
25 requirements for entering the apprenticeship programs.

26 d. Each grant awarded to a consortium shall provide that not less
27 than 25% of the grant funds be used for a pre-apprenticeship, or
28 school-to-apprenticeship, linkage program established pursuant to
29 this section.

30 (cf: P.L.1993, c.268, s.6)

31

32 2. Section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-9) is amended to read
33 as follows:

34 9. a. A restricted, nonlapsing, revolving Workforce
35 Development Partnership Fund, to be managed and invested by the
36 State Treasurer, is hereby established to: provide employment and
37 training services to qualified displaced, disadvantaged and employed
38 workers by means of training grants or customized training services;
39 provide for the other costs indicated in subsection a. of section 4 of
40 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4); provide for the New Jersey Innovation
41 and Research Fellowship Program as provided for in section 3 of
42 P.L.2015, c.235 (C.34:15D-26); provide for the Talent Network
43 Program as provided for in section 2 of P.L.2019, c.125 (C.34:15D-
44 29); and facilitate the provision of education and training to youth by
45 means of grants provided by the Youth Transitions to Work
46 Partnership pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-
47 1 et al.). All appropriations to the fund, all interest accumulated on
48 balances in the fund and all cash received for the fund from any other

1 source shall be used solely for the purposes specifically delineated
2 by this act.

3 b. During any fiscal year beginning after June 30, 2001, of the
4 total revenues dedicated to the program during any one fiscal year:

5 (1) 25% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
6 Development Partnership Fund reserved to provide employment and
7 training services for qualified displaced workers, and through fiscal
8 year 2023, not less than 10% of the revenues deposited in that account
9 shall be reserved to provide employment and training services to
10 qualified displaced workers in the pursuit of industry-valued
11 credentials under the pilot program established pursuant to P.L.2019,
12 c.252 (C.34:15D-30 et al.);

13 (2) 6% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
14 Development Partnership Fund reserved to provide employment and
15 training services for qualified disadvantaged workers, and through
16 fiscal year 2023, not less than 10% of the revenues deposited in that
17 account shall be reserved to provide employment and training
18 services to qualified disadvantaged workers in the pursuit of
19 industry-valued credentials under the pilot program established
20 pursuant to P.L.2019, c.252 (C.34:15D-30 et al.);

21 (3) 37% prior to July 1, 2020, and 35% after June 30, 2020 shall
22 be deposited in an account of the Workforce Development
23 Partnership Fund reserved for and appropriated to the Office of
24 Customized Training;

25 (4) 5% prior to July 1, 2020, and 7% after June 30, 2020 shall be
26 deposited in an account of the Workforce Development Partnership
27 Fund reserved for the Youth Transitions to Work Partnership created
28 pursuant to P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-1 et seq.);

29 (5) 3% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
30 Development Partnership Fund reserved for occupational safety and
31 health training;

32 (6) 5% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
33 Development Partnership Fund reserved for and appropriated to the
34 Talent Network Program established pursuant to section 2 of
35 P.L.2019, c.125 (C.34:15D-29);

36 (7) 3% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
37 Development Partnership Fund reserved for the New Jersey
38 Innovation and Research Fellowship Program established pursuant to
39 section 3 of P.L.2015, c.235 (C.34:15D-26);

40 (8) 10% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
41 Development Partnership Fund reserved for administrative costs as
42 defined in section 3 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-3);

43 (9) 0.5% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
44 Development Partnership Fund reserved for the State Employment
45 and Training Commission to design criteria and conduct an annual
46 evaluation of the program; and

47 (10) 5.5% shall be deposited in an account of the Workforce
48 Development Partnership Fund to be used, at the discretion of the

1 commissioner, for any of the purposes indicated in subsection a. of
2 section 4 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4).

3 c. Beginning January 1, 1995, through June 30, 2002, the
4 balance in the fund as of the previous December 31, as determined in
5 accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, shall not
6 exceed 1.5 times the amount of contributions deposited for the
7 calendar year then ended. If the balance exceeds this amount, the
8 excess shall be deposited into the unemployment compensation fund
9 within seven business days of the date that the determination is made.

10 d. Beginning July 1, 2002, and for any subsequent fiscal year, if
11 the unexpended cash balance in any of the accounts indicated in
12 subsection b. of this section, except for the account reserved for the
13 Talent Network Program, less any amount awarded in grants but not
14 yet disbursed from the account, is determined to exceed 20% of the
15 amount of contributions collected for deposit in the account pursuant
16 to this subsection during the fiscal year then ended, the excess shall
17 be regarded as an unemployment compensation contribution and
18 deposited into the unemployment compensation fund within seven
19 business days of the date that the determination is made. If the
20 unexpended cash balance in the account reserved for the Talent
21 Network Program, less any amount awarded in grants but not yet
22 disbursed from the account, is determined to exceed 20% of the
23 amount of contributions collected for deposit in the account pursuant
24 to this subsection during the fiscal year then ended, the excess shall
25 be deposited into the Workforce Development Partnership Fund
26 account reserved for the Office of Customized Training.

27 e. Upon the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the
28 Legislature as this bill), in addition to the amount deposited in an
29 account of the Workforce Development Partnership Fund reserved
30 for the Youth Transitions to Work Partnership pursuant to subsection
31 b. of this section, \$1,000,000 shall be allocated to the Youth
32 Transitions to Work Partnership from the \$34,500,000 which was
33 appropriated pursuant to the annual appropriations act for State fiscal
34 year 2020 from the Workforce Development Partnership Fund for the
35 purpose of funding the NJ Apprenticeship Network, the Career
36 Accelerator Internship Program, the Workforce Development Policy
37 and Evaluation Lab, the NJ Career Network, and such other priority
38 additional workforce initiatives recommended by the Commissioner
39 of Labor and Workforce Development.

40 (cf: P.L.2019, c.252, s.3)

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill enhances and expands the State's current initiatives under
48 the "Youth Transitions to Work Partnership Act," (P.L.1993, c.268

1 (C.34:15E-1 et seq.) to establish pre-apprenticeship programs to
2 assist young people to enter into apprenticeship programs with links
3 to post-secondary education and credentials.

4 The bill increases funding for the Youth Transitions to Work
5 (YTTW) Partnership and requires that consortia which receive
6 YTTW grants use at least 25 percent of the grants for pre-
7 apprenticeship programs. The bill enhances the services provided to
8 program participants by adding training in life skills, including
9 communication, working in teams, and meeting employer
10 expectations, training, including one-to-one tutoring in needed basic
11 math and literacy skills, and supportive services in addition to those
12 provided in current law. The bill requires the consortia to maximize
13 participation not only by women and minority group members, but
14 by individuals with disabilities as well.

15 Finally, the bill requires employers and other participants in the
16 consortia, when selecting applicants to participate in their
17 apprenticeship programs, to give first priority to applicants who have
18 successfully completed the pre-apprenticeship programs and have
19 met all other requirements for entering the apprenticeship programs.