

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

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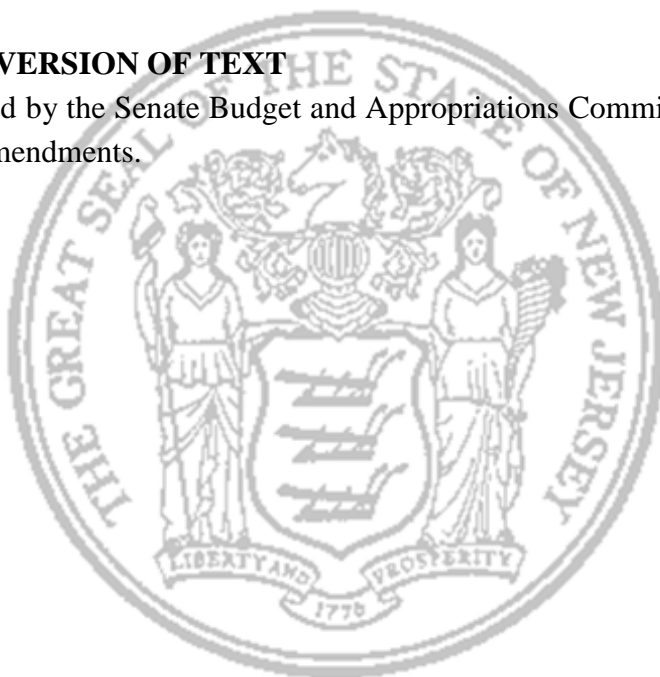
**Senators Corrado, Singleton, Testa, Cunningham, Gopal, A.M.Bucco,
Zwicker, Ruiz and O'Scanlon**

SYNOPSIS

“Manufacturing in Higher Education Act”; requires various State entities to promote manufacturing career pathways for students and provides assistance to manufacturing industry.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 6, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of the manufacturing industry in
2 higher education and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes, Title 34 of the Revised Statutes, and Title 52 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

5

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

8

9 1. ¹**[This]** Sections 3 through 5 of this¹ act shall be known and
10 may be cited as the “Manufacturing in Higher Education Act.”

11

12 2. a. The ¹**[Secretary of Higher Education]** Commissioner of
13 Labor and Workforce Development¹, in consultation with the
14 Commissioner of Education, the ¹**[Commissioner of Labor and**
15 **Workforce Development]** Secretary of Higher Education¹, the New
16 Jersey Council of County Colleges, the New Jersey Council of
17 County Vocational Schools, and representatives of the business
18 community, shall ¹**[design a]** promote and support the
19 implementation of the¹ manufacturing career pathway ¹**[to be]**¹
20 offered through the ¹**[county colleges and county vocational school**
21 **districts]** New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative
22 operated by the New Jersey Community College Consortium for
23 Workforce Development¹ to provide students interested in pursuing
24 a career in manufacturing with the instruction and skills necessary
25 to gain employment in the manufacturing or advanced
26 manufacturing sectors.

27 b. The manufacturing career pathway required pursuant to
28 subsection a. of this section shall include traditional and advanced
29 manufacturing processes and methods of production including, but
30 not limited to, the machinery, technology, tools, and equipment
31 used in a wide range of manufacturing industries.

32 ¹c. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development
33 shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative
34 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to
35 effectuate the purposes of this section.¹

36

37 ¹**[3.** a. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with
38 the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the
39 New Jersey Economic Development Authority, shall establish the
40 New Jersey STEM Entrepreneur Fellowship Program in county
41 colleges and four-year institutions of higher education.

42 b. The secretary shall work in consultation with the New Jersey
43 Economic Development Authority and the Commissioner of Labor

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:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 6, 2022.

1 and Workforce Development to fund no less than 20 fellowships,
2 administered by the secretary, which focus on supporting
3 entrepreneurs in the Science, Technology, Engineering and
4 Mathematics (STEM) fields. The fellowships may be provided to
5 individuals who have proven to the secretary that they have an idea
6 to create, advance or develop a product in the STEM field which
7 will have a beneficial impact on society and will result in a self-
8 sustaining business in the future.

9 The fellowships shall be issued for three years each and shall be
10 used primarily to support the entrepreneurs in commercializing the
11 idea and developing a well-structured business.

12 Priority will be given to fellowships which are submitted with
13 the support of an incubator supported by the State of New Jersey or
14 any of its public entities.

15 c. The secretary, in consultation with the New Jersey
16 Economic Development Authority, shall conduct an evaluation of
17 the effectiveness of the New Jersey STEM Entrepreneur Fellowship
18 Program to establish new businesses no later than five years after
19 the approval of the first fellowship. ¹

20

21 ¹[4.] 3.¹ a. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish
22 a “Higher Education Manufacturing Grant Program.” The program
23 shall be administered by a three-person commission which shall
24 include: the Secretary of Higher Education, or a designee, who shall
25 serve as chair of the commission; a representative of the New Jersey
26 Manufacturing Extension Program; and a representative of the New
27 Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and
28 Economic Development. The commission shall annually award \$10
29 million to New Jersey institutions of higher education, proprietary
30 institutions, and county vocational school districts for the purpose
31 of establishing or expanding programs in the manufacturing fields
32 ¹, and marketing and promoting current programs in the
33 manufacturing fields¹. The grants shall be allocated on a
34 competitive basis and shall be distributed as follows:

35 (1) 50 percent of program funding shall be awarded to county
36 colleges;

37 (2) 25 percent of program funding shall be awarded to four-year
38 institutions of higher education and proprietary institutions; and

39 (3) 25 percent of program funding shall be awarded to county
40 vocational school districts.

41 b. A grant recipient shall use the funds to establish or expand
42 programs and curricula in the fields of manufacturing,
43 manufacturing engineering, or advanced manufacturing. ¹A grant
44 recipient may also use the funds for marketing and promoting
45 current programs in the manufacturing fields.¹

46 c. To be eligible for consideration of a grant award, an
47 institution of higher education, proprietary institution, or county

1 vocational school district shall submit an application to the
2 commission, in accordance with application procedures and
3 requirements prescribed by the secretary. A grant application shall
4 include a complete description of the applicant's specific plans and
5 objectives for the use of the grant funds and any other information
6 specified by the secretary. ¹A grant application from a county
7 college or county vocational school district shall also include a
8 description of how the applicant would integrate their program into
9 existing workforce development programs, including the
10 manufacturing program within the New Jersey Pathways to Career
11 Opportunities Initiative operated by the New Jersey Community
12 College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development.¹

13 d. The commission, in accordance with any rules prescribed by
14 the secretary, shall establish selection criteria for the awarding of
15 grant funds under the program, and shall award grants through a
16 competitive process based upon review of the applications and
17 subject to the availability of funds. The commission shall establish
18 the amount for each grant that is approved.

19 e. As used in this section, "proprietary institution" shall be
20 limited to proprietary institutions that have received accreditation
21 from an accrediting body recognized by the United States
22 Department of Education.

23

24 ¹**[5.] 4.**¹ a. There is created within the Office of the Secretary
25 of Higher Education a fund to be known as the "Higher Education
26 Manufacturing Grant Fund." The fund shall be used to provide
27 grants to New Jersey institutions of higher education, proprietary
28 institutions, and county vocational school districts under the
29 "Higher Education Manufacturing Grant Program" established
30 pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
31 Legislature as this bill).

32 b. The fund shall be annually credited with money appropriated
33 by the State, any moneys received by the State from corporate
34 donors or other private sector support, and any federal funds which
35 may become available for higher education and manufacturing-
36 related purposes.

37

38 ¹**[6.] 5.**¹ The Secretary of Higher Education shall adopt rules
39 and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
40 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the
41 purposes of ¹**[section 2 through section 5]** sections 3 and 4¹ of
42 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43

44 ¹**[7.] a.** The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
45 the Secretary of Higher Education, the Business Action Center in
46 the Department of State, the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension
47 Program, and representatives of business and industry, shall

1 establish and maintain a State-recognized list of industry-
2 recognized credentials in the advanced manufacturing field to assist
3 county vocational school districts, institutions of higher education,
4 and the workforce development system in developing appropriate
5 educational programs to enable students to more adequately meet
6 the advanced technical training needs in this field.

7 b. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
8 Secretary of Higher Education, the Business Action Center in the
9 Department of State, the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension
10 Program, and representatives of business and industry, shall identify
11 courses of study for careers in emerging manufacturing industries,
12 including careers in industrial marketing, mechanical engineering,
13 computer science, electronics, and mechatronics. **】**¹

14

15 **【8.】 6.**¹ The Secretary of State, in consultation with the
16 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, shall
17 designate an existing or newly hired¹ employee of the Business
18 Action Center in the¹ Department of State to act as a liaison
19 between the State and manufacturing businesses located in this
20 State. The duties of the liaison shall be to assist manufacturing
21 businesses by:

22 a. advertising manufacturing businesses' products or services
23 nationally and internationally through the Business Action Center in
24 the Department of State; **【and】**¹

25 b. establishing a business referral service where manufacturing
26 businesses may be referred to other State, federal, or private
27 business resource organizations, such as the New Jersey
28 Manufacturing Extension Program, the State's Small Business
29 Development Centers, and other business organizations that provide
30 specialized business development assistance, technology
31 information, consulting management, and customized one-to-one
32 counseling concerning business plans and technical assistance with
33 significant business topics and issues¹; and

34 c. identifying and promoting opportunities throughout the State
35 for postsecondary pathway programs to actively reskill and upskill
36 the current workforce to better meet the needs of manufacturing
37 fields¹.

38

39 **【9.】 7.**¹ a. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the
40 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the New
41 Jersey Economic Development Authority, and other State
42 departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities, shall
43 direct resources, create incentives, and provide technological,
44 financial, and workforce development opportunities for
45 manufacturing businesses.

46 b. The Secretary of State may call upon any department,
47 authority, commission, board, office, division, or agency of the

1 State to provide any information, resources, or other assistance
2 deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)
3 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). This may include, but
4 not be limited to: the New Jersey Economic Development Authority
5 for assistance with manufacturing business funding assistance
6 programs; the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
7 for assistance with developing workforce development strategies for
8 manufacturing businesses; the Department of Transportation and
9 the New Jersey Transit Corporation for assistance with enhancing
10 public transportation operations for employees of manufacturing
11 businesses; the Business Action Center in the Department of State
12 for assistance with manufacturing business attraction, retention, and
13 expansion efforts and advising on smart growth development
14 strategies; and the Department of Community Affairs for assistance
15 to manufacturing businesses participating in the urban enterprise
16 zone program established by P.L.1983, c.303 (C.52:27H-60 et al.).
17

18 ¹10. a. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority, in
19 consultation with the Business Action Center created in the
20 Department of State and an institution of higher education, may
21 designate an institution of higher education or other entity as a
22 manufacturing and production business resource center to provide
23 services and assistance to manufacturing businesses to assist them
24 to modernize, maximize their efficiency, and expand their
25 production through the development and commercialization of
26 innovative products.

27 b. The authority shall grant this designation to any institution
28 of higher education or other entity that meets qualifications
29 established by the authority. The authority shall base the
30 qualifications upon the ability of the institution or entity to provide
31 specialized services and information to manufacturing and
32 production facilities, which may include specialization in discrete
33 aspects of the manufacturing and production process, or to provide
34 more comprehensive services.

35 c. The authority shall refer a manufacturing business deemed
36 eligible by the authority to a manufacturing and production business
37 resource center or other organization qualified to provide services
38 to small and mid-sized manufacturing businesses, which services
39 shall include, but not be limited to:

40 (1) assistance with product development, including:

41 (a) a preliminary technical evaluation of a product and any
42 design and materials issues,

43 (b) assistance in providing a connection with available research
44 and development resources, prototype development resources, and
45 product evaluation and testing resources, and

46 (c) the selection, implementation and optimization of available
47 technologies;

48 (2) assistance in production planning and inventory control;

- 1 (3) assistance in identifying appropriate factory and office
- 2 automation and modernizing production capacity;
- 3 (4) assistance in identifying sources of supply, including any
- 4 Internet-based listing of New Jersey-based suppliers of goods and
- 5 services;
- 6 (5) assistance in establishing a quality assurance program;
- 7 (6) assistance with market analysis and development, including
- 8 assistance in identifying export opportunities, provided by the
- 9 Business Action Center;
- 10 (7) assistance with distribution issues;
- 11 (8) assistance in developing the skills of the existing workforce
- 12 or procuring skilled workers;
- 13 (9) referral to financing resources; and
- 14 (10) assistance in preliminary patent and trademark searches. **1**
- 15

16 **1**~~11.~~ 8. **1** a. There is created in the New Jersey State
17 Employment and Training Commission, established pursuant to
18 section 5 of P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-2), the New Jersey
19 Advanced Manufacturing Council.

20 b. The council shall consist of 11 members who are individuals
21 with experience in the fields of labor, education, or workforce
22 development or training. The **1**~~11~~ members shall be appointed by
23 the **1** Governor shall appoint nine members **1** as follows: **1**~~two~~
24 ~~members~~ one member **1** shall be recommended by the Senate
25 President; **1**~~two members~~ one member **1** shall be recommended by
26 the Speaker of the General Assembly; one member shall be
27 recommended by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member
28 shall be recommended by the Minority Leader of the General
29 Assembly; and, five members shall be recommended by the
30 Governor. The co-chairs of the Legislative Manufacturing Caucus
31 shall serve as ex officio members of the council. **1** The members
32 appointed by the Governor **1** shall be appointed for five-year terms,
33 except, of the members first appointed, **1**~~four~~ three **1** members
34 shall be appointed for five-year terms, **1**~~four member~~ three
35 members **1** shall be appointed for three-year terms, and three
36 members shall be appointed for four-year terms. Each appointed **1**
37 member shall hold office for the term of appointment and until a
38 successor is appointed and qualified. A member appointed to fill a
39 vacancy occurring in the appointed **1** membership of the council for
40 any reason other than the expiration of the term shall have a term of
41 appointment for the unexpired term only. Vacancies shall be filled
42 in the same manner as the original appointment. A member may be
43 appointed for any number of successive terms. Any member
44 appointed may be removed from the council by the appointing
45 authority, as the case may be, for cause, after a hearing and may be
46 suspended by the appointing authority pending the completion of
47 the hearing.

1 c. Members of the council shall serve without compensation,
2 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
3 performance of their duties as members. Action may be taken and
4 motions and resolutions may be adopted by the council at a council
5 meeting by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members. The
6 council shall elect from its members a chairperson. Advanced
7 notification for, and copies of the minutes of, each meeting of the
8 council shall be filed with the Governor, the President of the
9 Senate, and the Speaker of the General Assembly.

10
11 **12.**¹ The council shall:

12 a. convene and enable industry-led, private-public partnerships
13 focused on engaging New Jersey institutions of higher education in
14 manufacturing innovation;

15 b. design and implement an advanced manufacturing initiative
16 to facilitate collaboration and information sharing across State
17 departments and agencies;

18 c. assist private companies to enhance technological transfer in
19 New Jersey manufacturing industries to help companies overcome
20 technical obstacles to scaling up production of new technologies;
21 and

22 d. submit an annual report to the Governor, to the Legislature
23 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the
24 State Employment and Training Commission, of its assessments and
25 recommendations to enhance State policy related to the advanced
26 manufacturing industry in New Jersey.

27
28 **13.**¹ The council is authorized to:

29 a. hold public hearings;

30 b. employ staff, responsible to the Executive Director of the
31 State Employment and Training Commission, to assist the council
32 to implement the purposes of this act; and

33 c. avail itself of the services of the employees and have access
34 to the records of any instrumentality of the State, as necessary or
35 useful to implement the purposes of this act.

36
37 **14.**¹ This act shall take effect immediately.