

[Third Reprint]

SENATE, No. 659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

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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 amended by the General Assembly on December 21, 2023.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)

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. ³**[This Sections 3 through 5 of this¹]** This³ act shall be
 10 known and may be cited as the “Manufacturing in Higher Education
 11 Act.”

12

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

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

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

37

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

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.

²Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted October 13, 2022.

³Assembly floor amendments adopted December 21, 2023.

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

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

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

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

22

23 ¹[4.] ³[3.1a. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish a
24 “Higher Education Manufacturing Grant Program.” The program
25 shall be administered by a three-person commission which shall
26 include: the Secretary of Higher Education, or a designee, who shall
27 serve as chair of the commission; a representative of the New Jersey
28 Manufacturing Extension Program; and a representative of the New
29 Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and
30 Economic Development. The commission shall annually award \$10
31 million to New Jersey institutions of higher education, proprietary
32 institutions, and county vocational school districts for the purpose
33 of establishing or expanding programs in the manufacturing fields
34 ¹, and marketing and promoting current programs in the
35 manufacturing fields¹. The grants shall be allocated on a
36 competitive basis and shall be distributed as follows:

37 (1) 50 percent of program funding shall be awarded to county
38 colleges;

39 (2) 25 percent of program funding shall be awarded to four-year
40 institutions of higher education and proprietary institutions; and

41 (3) 25 percent of program funding shall be awarded to county
42 vocational school districts.

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

1 c. To be eligible for consideration of a grant award, an
 2 institution of higher education, proprietary institution, or county
 3 vocational school district shall submit an application to the
 4 commission, in accordance with application procedures and
 5 requirements prescribed by the secretary. A grant application shall
 6 include a complete description of the applicant's specific plans and
 7 objectives for the use of the grant funds and any other information
 8 specified by the secretary. ¹A grant application from a county
 9 college or county vocational school district ²~~shall~~ ²may² also
 10 include a description of how the applicant would integrate their
 11 program into existing workforce development programs, including
 12 the manufacturing program within the New Jersey Pathways to
 13 Career Opportunities Initiative operated by the New Jersey
 14 Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic
 15 Development.¹

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

22 e. As used in this section, "proprietary institution" shall be
 23 limited to proprietary institutions that have received accreditation
 24 from an accrediting body recognized by the United States
 25 Department of Education.]²]³

26
 27 ¹[~~5.]~~ ³[~~4.]~~¹ a. There is created within the Office of the
 28 Secretary of Higher Education a fund to be known as the "Higher
 29 Education Manufacturing Grant Fund." The fund shall be used to
 30 provide grants to New Jersey institutions of higher education,
 31 proprietary institutions, and county vocational school districts under
 32 the "Higher Education Manufacturing Grant Program" established
 33 pursuant to section ²[~~4]~~ ³~~3~~² of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
 34 the Legislature as this bill).

35 b. The fund shall be annually credited with money appropriated
 36 by the State, any moneys received by the State from corporate
 37 donors or other private sector support, and any federal funds which
 38 may become available for higher education and manufacturing-
 39 related purposes.]³

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

1 ¹[7. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
2 the Secretary of Higher Education, the Business Action Center in
3 the Department of State, the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension
4 Program, and representatives of business and industry, shall
5 establish and maintain a State-recognized list of industry-
6 recognized credentials in the advanced manufacturing field to assist
7 county vocational school districts, institutions of higher education,
8 and the workforce development system in developing appropriate
9 educational programs to enable students to more adequately meet
10 the advanced technical training needs in this field.

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

18
19 ¹[8.]³[6.¹] 3.³The Secretary of State, in consultation with the
20 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, shall
21 designate an existing or newly hired¹ employee of the Business
22 Action Center in the¹ Department of State to act as a liaison
23 between the State and manufacturing businesses located in this
24 State. The duties of the liaison shall be to assist manufacturing
25 businesses by:

26 a. advertising manufacturing businesses' products or services
27 nationally and internationally through the Business Action Center in
28 the Department of State; ¹[and]¹

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

38 c. identifying and promoting opportunities throughout the State
39 for postsecondary pathway programs to actively reskill and upskill
40 the current workforce to better meet the needs of manufacturing
41 fields¹.

42
43 ¹[9.]³[7.¹] 4.³ a. The Secretary of State, in consultation
44 with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the
45 New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and other State
46 departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities, shall
47 direct resources, create incentives, and provide technological,

1 financial, and workforce development opportunities for
2 manufacturing businesses.

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

21

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

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

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

44 (1) assistance with product development, including:

45 (a) a preliminary technical evaluation of a product and any
46 design and materials issues,

- 1 (b) assistance in providing a connection with available research
 2 and development resources, prototype development resources, and
 3 product evaluation and testing resources, and
 4 (c) the selection, implementation and optimization of available
 5 technologies;
 6 (2) assistance in production planning and inventory control;
 7 (3) assistance in identifying appropriate factory and office
 8 automation and modernizing production capacity;
 9 (4) assistance in identifying sources of supply, including any
 10 Internet-based listing of New Jersey-based suppliers of goods and
 11 services;
 12 (5) assistance in establishing a quality assurance program;
 13 (6) assistance with market analysis and development, including
 14 assistance in identifying export opportunities, provided by the
 15 Business Action Center;
 16 (7) assistance with distribution issues;
 17 (8) assistance in developing the skills of the existing workforce
 18 or procuring skilled workers;
 19 (9) referral to financing resources; and
 20 (10) assistance in preliminary patent and trademark searches.]¹

21
 22 ¹[11.] ³[8.1] ^{5.3} a. There is created in the New Jersey State
 23 Employment and Training Commission, established pursuant to
 24 section 5 of P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-2), the New Jersey
 25 Advanced Manufacturing Council.
 26 b. The council shall consist of 11 members who are individuals
 27 with experience in the fields of labor, education, or workforce
 28 development or training. The ¹[11 members shall be appointed by
 29 the]¹ Governor ¹shall appoint nine members¹ as follows: ¹[two
 30 members]¹ one member¹ shall be recommended by the Senate
 31 President; ¹[two members]¹ one member¹ shall be recommended by
 32 the Speaker of the General Assembly; one member shall be
 33 recommended by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member
 34 shall be recommended by the Minority Leader of the General
 35 Assembly; and, five members shall be recommended by the
 36 Governor. ¹The co-chairs of the Legislative Manufacturing Caucus
 37 shall serve as ex officio members of the council.¹ The members
 38 ¹appointed by the Governor¹ shall be appointed for five-year terms,
 39 except, of the members first appointed, ¹[four] three¹ members
 40 shall be appointed for five-year terms, ¹[four member] three
 41 members¹ shall be appointed for three-year terms, and three
 42 members shall be appointed for four-year terms. Each ¹appointed¹
 43 member shall hold office for the term of appointment and until a
 44 successor is appointed and qualified. A member appointed to fill a
 45 vacancy occurring in the ¹appointed¹ membership of the council for
 46 any reason other than the expiration of the term shall have a term of
 47 appointment for the unexpired term only. Vacancies shall be filled

1 in the same manner as the original appointment. A member may be
2 appointed for any number of successive terms. Any member
3 appointed may be removed from the council by the appointing
4 authority, as the case may be, for cause, after a hearing and may be
5 suspended by the appointing authority pending the completion of
6 the hearing.

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

16

17 ¹[12.] ³[9.1] 6.³ The council shall:

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

21 b. design and implement an advanced manufacturing initiative
22 to facilitate collaboration and information sharing across State
23 departments and agencies;

24 c. assist private companies to enhance technological transfer in
25 New Jersey manufacturing industries to help companies overcome
26 technical obstacles to scaling up production of new technologies;
27 and

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

33

34 ¹[13.] ³[10.1] 7.³ The council is authorized to:

35 a. hold public hearings;

36 b. employ staff, responsible to the Executive Director of the
37 State Employment and Training Commission, to assist the council
38 to implement the purposes of this act; and

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

42

43 ¹[14.] ³[11.1] 8.³ This act shall take effect immediately.