

SENATE, No. 1660

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program;” appropriates \$50,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/14/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing a “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot
2 Program” and making an appropriation.

3

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

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7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-year
8 “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program.” The purpose of
9 the program is to create mentoring relationships between male students
10 of color, who are enrolled in educator preparation programs at senior
11 public institutions of higher education, and male teachers of color
12 currently employed by a school district. The commissioner shall select
13 to participate in the pilot program one or more senior public
14 institutions of higher education, which offer an educator preparation
15 program, and one or more school districts that each employ at least
16 one male teacher of color.

17 b. The commissioner shall, based on a competitive application
18 process, select 10 male students of color enrolled in an educator
19 preparation program at the senior public institutions of higher
20 education selected for participation in the pilot program and 10 male
21 teachers of color from the school districts selected for participation in
22 the pilot program. A student shall be eligible for the pilot program if
23 he is enrolled in the final year of an educator preparation program at a
24 participating institution.

25 c. The commissioner shall pair each participating male student of
26 color with a participating male teacher of color. The teacher shall
27 serve as the student’s mentor through the student’s final year of the
28 educator preparation program in which he is enrolled and the first two
29 years of his employment as a teacher, if the student is hired for
30 employment in the participating district upon graduation from an
31 educator preparation program.

32 d. A school district providing mentoring services under the
33 provisions of this act shall conduct a review of the student’s
34 performance under the “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot
35 Program” following completion of the student’s final year in an
36 educator preparation program. A school district that provides
37 mentoring services to a student pursuant to the provisions of this
38 section shall make a good faith effort to hire a student who receives a
39 favorable review pursuant to the provisions of this subsection
40 following the student’s graduation from an educator preparation
41 program.

42 e. A male teacher of color participating as a mentor in the pilot
43 program shall receive a stipend of \$5,000 for each year in which he
44 participates in the pilot program.

45 f. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall
46 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
47 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation
48 and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the

1 commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the program's
2 continuation and expansion to additional school districts and senior
3 public institutions of higher education in the State.

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5 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
6 Department of Education \$50,000 to establish the "Male Teachers
7 of Color Mentorship Pilot Program."

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9 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill establishes the three-year "Male Teachers of Color
15 Mentorship Pilot Program," which is to be developed and operated by
16 the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner will select one or
17 more senior public institutions of higher education, which offer
18 educator preparation programs, and one or more school districts that
19 each employ at least one male teacher of color to participate in the
20 pilot program.

21 Under the pilot program, the commissioner will select 10 male
22 students of color from among the senior public institutions of higher
23 education selected for participation in the pilot program and 10 male
24 teachers of color from the school districts selected for participation in
25 the pilot program. To be eligible for the program, a student is required
26 to be in his final year of an educator preparation program.

27 The commissioner will then pair each selected student with a
28 current teacher, who will serve as the student's mentor through the
29 candidate's last year of his educator preparation program and, if the
30 student is hired for employment in the participating district upon the
31 student's graduation from an educator preparation program, for the
32 first two years of the student's teaching career.

33 A school district that provides mentoring services under the
34 provisions of the bill will conduct a review of the student's
35 performance under the pilot program following completion of the
36 student's final year in an educator preparation program. A school
37 district that provides mentoring services to a student under the pilot
38 program is required to make a good faith effort to hire the student
39 following the student's graduation from an educator preparation
40 program, if the student receives a favorable performance review under
41 the review conducted by the school district.

42 Under the pilot program, a mentor will receive a stipend of \$5,000
43 for each year of participation in the pilot program.

44 At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will
45 submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation
46 and effectiveness of the pilot program, including the commissioner's
47 recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation and

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1 expansion to additional school districts and senior public institutions
2 of higher education in the State.

3 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of
4 Education \$50,000 to establish the “Male Teachers of color
5 Mentorship Pilot Program.”