Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)
Senator TROY SINGLETON
District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Johnson

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT establishing a “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program” and making an appropriation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

f. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the
commissioner’s recommendation on the advisability of the program’s
continuation and expansion to additional school districts and senior
public institutions of higher education in the State.

2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
Department of Education $50,000 to establish the “Male Teachers
of Color Mentorship Pilot Program.”

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will
submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation
and effectiveness of the pilot program, including the commissioner’s
recommendation on the advisability of the program’s continuation and
expansion to additional school districts and senior public institutions of higher education in the State. The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Education $50,000 to establish the “Male Teachers of color Mentorship Pilot Program.”