

# SENATE, No. 2764

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Diegnan, Durr, Gopal and O'Scanlon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “VETeach Pilot Program” in DOE to facilitate teacher certification of veterans.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2023)**

S2764 SINGLETON, BEACH

2

1 AN ACT establishing the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the  
2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title  
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education a four-  
9 year “VETeach Pilot Program.” The purpose of the pilot program  
10 shall be to address the shortage of certified public school teachers,  
11 by taking advantage of the qualified workforce represented by the  
12 State’s veterans. The pilot program shall facilitate the teacher  
13 certification of veterans in order to advance the State’s goals of  
14 ensuring a qualified public school workforce and addressing the  
15 high rate of unemployment among returning veterans.

16 b. Under the pilot program, Rowan University shall enroll, in a  
17 36-month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of students  
18 who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who served  
19 on or after September 11, 2001. The program shall lead to a  
20 baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements necessary  
21 to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate of  
22 eligibility with advanced standing.

23 c. Rowan University shall establish, with the approval of the  
24 State Board of Education, the coherent sequence of courses required  
25 to be completed by a student under the pilot program in order to be  
26 eligible to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.  
27 A certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued to a  
28 student who completes the pilot program shall authorize the student  
29 to seek employment as a teacher in grades kindergarten through  
30 eight, and in certain secondary education fields.

31 d. Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner  
32 shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to  
33 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the number of  
34 veterans who enrolled in the teacher preparation program  
35 established under the pilot program, the number of veterans who  
36 were hired as teachers in public or nonpublic schools, and the  
37 advisability of the establishment of similar programs on a  
38 permanent basis.

39  
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the  
46 Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to  
47 address the shortage of certified public school teachers by taking

**S2764 SINGLETON, BEACH**

3

1 advantage of the qualified workforce represented by the State's  
2 veterans.

3 Under the pilot program, Rowan University will enroll, in a 36-  
4 month teacher preparation program, veterans who served in the  
5 armed forces on or after September 11, 2001. The program will  
6 lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements  
7 necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate  
8 of eligibility with advanced standing, which will authorize the  
9 veteran to seek employment as a teacher in grades kindergarten  
10 through eight, and in certain secondary education fields.

11 The "VETeach Pilot Program" will provide veterans with a path  
12 to education and employment. Veterans will be able to obtain  
13 higher education and employment opportunities, while filling a  
14 critical shortage in the teaching profession. The program may also  
15 serve to attract a greater number of men and minorities, groups  
16 which are currently underrepresented in the teaching profession.