

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3883

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2023

Sponsored by:

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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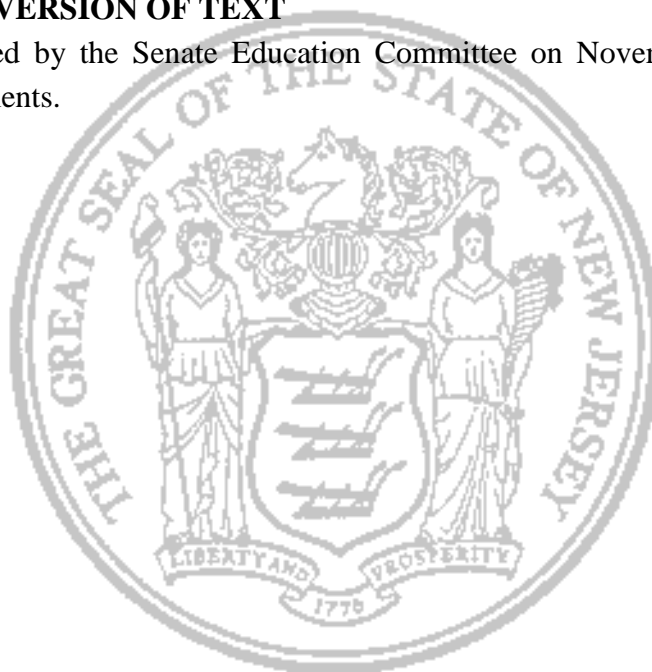
Senators Diegnan and Stanfield

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to authorize alternate route to expedite teacher certification of persons employed as paraprofessionals in school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on November 27, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize an alternate
8 route to expedite the teacher certification of persons who are
9 employed or have been employed by a school district as a
10 paraprofessional or an instructional assistant.

11 b. The Commissioner of Education shall develop
12 recommendations for the alternate route program authorized
13 pursuant to subsection a. of this section and shall submit the
14 recommendations to the State Board of Education. In developing
15 the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with
16 representatives of the education community including, but not
17 limited to, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey
18 School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and
19 Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School
20 Administrators, ¹the New Jersey Public Charter Schools
21 Association,¹ and the State Professional Learning Committee.

22 c. In addition to any other requirements established by the State
23 Board of Education, the alternate route program authorized pursuant
24 to subsection a. of this section shall include the following:

25 (1) a formula for applying a candidate's direct classroom service
26 to any student teaching requirements, provided that the candidate is
27 currently employed by a school district and is providing direct
28 classroom service, including tutoring. Under the formula, the direct
29 classroom service shall earn the candidate full credit, if appropriate;

30 (2) a requirement that the school district in which the candidate
31 is currently employed ¹make every reasonable effort to¹ permit the
32 candidate to perform any required student teaching in the school
33 district while, if possible, continuing employment as a
34 paraprofessional or an instructional assistant; and

35 (3) a formula to allow a grade point average waiver for
36 candidates who otherwise demonstrate qualification for the
37 expedited teacher certification.

38

39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 SED committee amendments adopted November 27, 2023.