

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3890**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator RENEE C. BURGESS**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Diegnan, Gopal and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits limiting number of county college credits that may be applied towards educator preparation program and teacher certification requirements.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on December 11, 2023.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)**

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. <sup>1</sup>a.<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
8 contrary, a Commissioner-approved <sup>1</sup>**[college]**<sup>1</sup> educator preparation  
9 program shall not restrict the number of semester-hour credits  
10 <sup>1</sup>**[earned in the field of professional education]** of professional  
11 education coursework completed<sup>1</sup> at <sup>1</sup>**[a]** an accredited<sup>1</sup> county  
12 college that may be accepted toward meeting the <sup>1</sup>**[program's]**<sup>1</sup>  
13 requirements for teacher certification<sup>1</sup>, except as may be otherwise  
14 required by the program's accrediting organization.

15 <sup>1</sup>b. As used in this section, "professional education coursework"  
16 means coursework required to obtain teacher certification, including  
17 courses in child development, language development, curriculum  
18 development, and methods of instruction.<sup>1</sup>

19

20 2. <sup>1</sup>a.<sup>1</sup> The State Board of Education shall not adopt any  
21 regulation or policy which restricts the number of semester-hour  
22 credits <sup>1</sup>**[earned in the field of professional education]** of professional  
23 education coursework completed<sup>1</sup> at <sup>1</sup>**[a regionally]** an<sup>1</sup> accredited  
24 county college that may be accepted toward meeting the requirements  
25 for teacher certification, provided that the credits are accepted by a  
26 <sup>1</sup>**[State-approved college professional education]** Commissioner-  
27 approved educator<sup>1</sup> preparation program.

28 <sup>1</sup>b. As used in this section, "professional education coursework"  
29 means coursework required to obtain teacher certification, including  
30 courses in child development, language development, curriculum  
31 development, and methods of instruction.<sup>1</sup>

32

33 3. 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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted December 11, 2023.