

ASSEMBLY, No. 1599

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOE to conduct study on feasibility of using and expanding virtual learning in school districts with teacher shortages.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning virtual learning in certain school districts.

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

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6 1. a. The Department of Education shall conduct a study on the
7 feasibility of using and expanding virtual learning in school districts
8 designated as having a shortage of teachers as determined by the
9 department.

10 b. In conducting the study, the department shall, at a minimum:

11 (1) conduct an analysis by subject area of the capability of
12 school districts with teacher shortages to use and expand virtual
13 learning;

14 (2) include an overview of the courses and programs offered by
15 existing virtual learning centers and other providers;

16 (3) evaluate the methods by which school districts in the State
17 and in other states have implemented virtual learning;

18 (4) assess the effectiveness of virtual learning in school districts
19 in the State and in other states that have implemented virtual
20 learning;

21 (5) consider the potential effects of using and expanding virtual
22 learning on student outcomes; and

23 (6) analyze the potential costs and savings to school districts in
24 implementing virtual learning.

25 c. Within six months of the effective date of this act, the
26 Commissioner of Education shall prepare and submit a written
27 report of the study's findings to the Governor and, pursuant to
28 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill directs the Department of Education to conduct a study
36 on the feasibility of using and expanding virtual learning in school
37 districts designated as having a shortage of teachers. Generally,
38 virtual learning is a program of instruction provided to students
39 through the use of technology, such as the Internet, computer
40 software, or interactive real-time telecommunication.

41 In conducting the study, the department will, at a minimum:
42 conduct an analysis by subject area of the capability of school
43 districts with teacher shortages to use and expand virtual learning;
44 include an overview of the courses and programs offered by
45 existing virtual learning centers and other providers; evaluate the
46 methods by which school districts in the State and in other states
47 have implemented virtual learning; assess the effectiveness of
48 virtual learning in school districts in the State and in other states

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- 1 that have implemented virtual learning; consider the potential
- 2 effects of using and expanding virtual learning on student
- 3 outcomes; and analyze the potential costs and savings to school
- 4 districts implementing virtual learning.