

ASSEMBLY, No. 2835

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman WILLIAM B. SAMPSON, IV

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Speight, Murphy, Swain, Quijano,

Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman Hall, Assemblyman Barlas and

Assemblywoman Sumter

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Second Chance Program in charge of providing opportunities through labor organizations for formerly incarcerated individuals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/5/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning employment opportunities for individuals
2 returning to the workforce after imprisonment and supplementing
3 Title 34 of the Revised Statutes.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. There is a lack of viable employment opportunities in New
10 Jersey for individuals recently released from prison;

11 b. Employment opportunities are necessary to curtail the rate of
12 recidivism and to reincorporate recently incarcerated individuals
13 back into civil society;

14 c. Individuals with low educational attainment are at greater
15 risk of engaging in criminal activity since they have tremendous
16 difficulty finding and maintaining adequate jobs; and

17 d. Labor organizations, given their unique understanding of
18 their community's economic conditions are in the best position to
19 identify employment opportunities for recently incarcerated
20 individuals and to propose a plan for attracting such employment
21 opportunities into their respective trades.
22

23 2. There is established, in the Department of Labor and
24 Workforce Development, the Second Chance Program (program).
25 The program shall be under the direction of the State Employment
26 and Training Commission as part of the commission's
27 responsibilities pursuant to subsection d. of section 9 of P.L.1989,
28 c.293 (C.34:15C-6). The purpose of the program shall be to provide
29 real and lasting career opportunities for formerly incarcerated
30 individuals through, and in consultation with, labor organizations in
31 order to reduce recidivism.

32 For the purposes of this section, "labor organization" means a
33 labor organization as defined in section 3 of 29 U.S.C. s.402.
34

35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
36
37

38 STATEMENT
39

40 This bill establishes the Second Chance Program within the State
41 Employment and Training Commission in the Department of Labor
42 and Workforce Development. The purpose of the program will be to
43 provide real and lasting career opportunities through labor
44 organizations for formerly incarcerated individuals, with the intent to
45 reduce recidivism.