

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5211

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 16, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CODY D. MILLER

District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

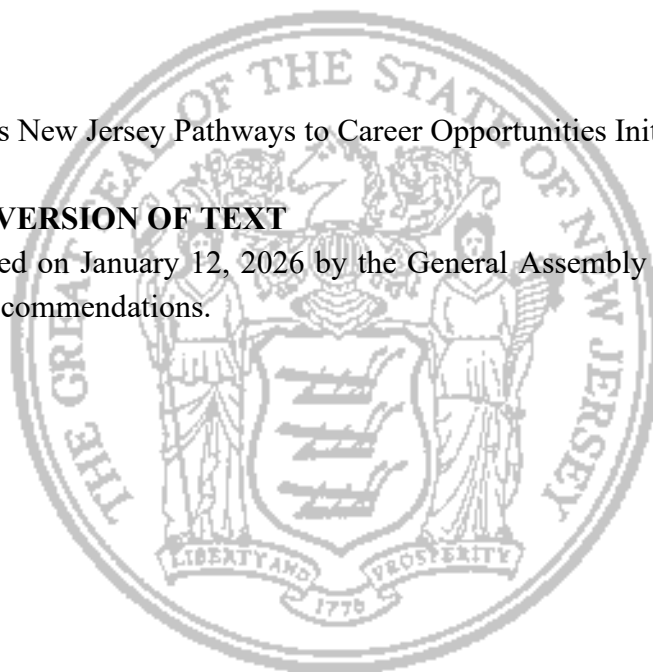
**Assemblywomen Carter, Reynolds-Jackson, Haider, Assemblyman
Hutchison, Assemblywomen Speight, Drulis, Lopez, Bagolie, Senators
Singleton and Turner**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative Act.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on January 12, 2026 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2025)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Pathways to Career
2 Opportunities Initiative Act and supplementing chapter 64A of
3 Title 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. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “New Jersey
9 Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative Act.”

10

11 2. a. The New Jersey Community College Consortium for
12 Workforce and Economic Development shall operate a New Jersey
13 Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative, the purpose of which shall
14 be to provide students, workers, and job seekers with the career
15 pathways they need to pursue promising new careers and
16 opportunities; to strengthen career pathways partnerships between
17 county colleges and employers, primary and secondary schools,
18 vocational technical high schools, four-year institutions of higher
19 education, unions, and community-based organizations; and to ensure
20 that employers have access to a highly skilled workforce to meet
21 critical labor market needs.

22

23 b. ¹**【**The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, in
24 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of
25 Higher Education, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and
26 representatives of the business community, shall promote and support
27 the implementation of the New Jersey Pathways to Career
28 Opportunities Initiative.

29

30 c. ¹**【**The New Jersey Community College Consortium for
31 Workforce and Economic Development may establish Centers of
32 Workforce Innovation that offer career pathways in areas that include,
33 but are not limited to, the following:

34

- 35 (1) patient care;
- 36 (2) healthcare technology and administration;
- 37 (3) direct support;
- 38 (4) manufacturing production and engineering;
- 39 (5) supply chain logistics;
- 40 (6) data science;
- 41 (7) cybersecurity;
- 42 (8) program and software development;
- 43 (9) research and development;
- (10) renewable energy; and
- (11) construction.

44

¹**【d.】** c. ¹ The Centers of Workforce Innovation shall:

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:

¹Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations January 12, 2026.

- 1 (1) develop curriculum specific to each career pathway, which
- 2 shall be made publicly available;
- 3 (2) provide students with the instruction and skills necessary to
- 4 gain employment in a career pathway field;
- 5 (3) promote the use of Community College Opportunity Grants
- 6 and other State and federal financial aid to support promotion along
- 7 the pathways, including for incumbent workers; and
- 8 (4) promote the expansion of apprenticeship and other work-based
- 9 learning opportunities for students.
- 10 ¹**1** ~~1~~ The Centers of Workforce Innovation shall collaborate
- 11 with industry leaders and educational partners across the State to
- 12 expand economic mobility opportunity and drive economic growth.
- 13
- 14 3. This act shall take effect immediately.