

SENATE, No. 2428

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Codifies Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship Program at Eagleton Institute of Politics; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/13/2024)

1 AN ACT codifying the Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship
2 Program, supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes, and
3 making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
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8 1. a. There is established the Eagleton Science and Politics
9 Fellowship Program at the Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers
10 University. Scientists, engineers, and health care professionals with
11 a PhD or equivalent doctoral professional degree in natural
12 sciences, engineering, or healthcare shall be selected to participate
13 in the program as follows.

14 b. The State shall appropriate funds in each fiscal year to the
15 Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University to
16 finance the stipends and benefits provided to six fellows pursuant to
17 subsection c. of this section, and for the cost of administering the
18 Science and Politics Fellowship Program.

19 c. Six fellows shall be selected each year and shall be assigned
20 to work with the New Jersey Legislature and the Executive Branch.
21 The fellows shall be referred to as the John Weingart Science
22 Fellows.

23 Three fellows shall be assigned to work with the Legislature,
24 with each fellow placed in either the Office of Legislative Services,
25 the Senate Majority Office, the Senate Minority Office, the General
26 Assembly Majority Office, or the General Assembly Minority
27 Office. Three fellows shall be assigned to work in the Executive
28 Branch. Placement shall be determined by the Director of the
29 Science and Politics Fellowship Program, appointed pursuant to
30 subsection d. of this section, in consultation with interested State
31 offices.

32 Each fellow shall receive a stipend during the period of
33 fellowship, as well as health, dental, and vision benefits for the term
34 of their fellowship. Each fellow shall participate for a period of one
35 year on a full time basis.

36 d. The Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers,
37 the State University shall appoint the director of the Science and
38 Politics Fellowship Program, who shall administer the program and
39 recruit and select the fellows.
40

41 2. Notwithstanding any other funds allocated, there is
42 appropriated from the State General Fund to the Eagleton Institute
43 of Politics of Rutgers, the State University for the Science and
44 Politics Fellowship Program the sum of \$338,000 for the stipends
45 and the administrative costs of the program, implementing the
46 provisions of this act, P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
47 Legislature as this bill).

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill codifies the Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship
7 Program at the Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers, the State
8 University. The program will be funded by the State, and the
9 fellows will be referred to as the John Weingart Science Fellows.
10 John Weingart is a former Associate Director of the Eagleton
11 Institute of Politics and a founder of the fellowship program.

12 The program has been in successful operation for several years,
13 and was launched to bring certain expertise to New Jersey State
14 legislative and executive offices. The fellows are scientists,
15 engineers, and health care professionals with a PhD or equivalent
16 doctoral professional degree in natural sciences, engineering, or
17 healthcare. The fellows serve for a period of one year on a fulltime
18 basis and receive a stipend of \$60,000 and other benefits.

19 The program helps to bridge the gap between science and
20 politics. The fellows bring their advanced knowledge and technical
21 skills to State government, develop an understanding of State
22 government, and learn how to build careers in public service. Their
23 advanced knowledge and technical skills help support New Jersey
24 State government officials in making evidence-based decisions in
25 public policy areas involving science, engineering, and healthcare.

26 Six fellows will be selected each year and assigned to work with
27 the New Jersey Legislature and the Executive Branch. The director
28 of the fellowship program will determine placement, as well as
29 recruit and select the fellows.

30 The FY 2024 Annual Appropriations Act already appropriates
31 \$320,000 for the current program. This bill appropriates an
32 additional \$338,000 for the stipends and the administrative costs of
33 the program.