

SENATE, No. 3386

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 6, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Codifies various centers and programs at Rutgers University - Newark; appropriates \$6.5 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing various centers and programs at Rutgers, The
2 State University - Newark, supplementing chapter 65 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. There is established the Sheila Y. Oliver Center for
9 Politics and Race at Rutgers, The State University - Newark. The
10 purpose of the center shall be to serve as a nonpartisan research
11 center investigating the link between race and politics in the United
12 States. In fulfilling its purpose, the center shall have three focus
13 areas:

14 (1) to serve as a data resource center that produces and rapidly
15 disseminates data on race and politics across local, State, national,
16 and international levels;

17 (2) to facilitate advanced training in data analysis in order to
18 better understand the connections between race and politics; and

19 (3) to develop programs, including a paid internship program, to
20 support students from diverse backgrounds in pursuing careers in
21 public service.

22 b. The Legislature shall appropriate \$1,000,000 in each fiscal
23 year to Rutgers, The State University - Newark to support the
24 objectives of the Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics and Race.

25
26 2. a. There is established the Center on Law, Inequality and
27 Metropolitan Equity (CLiME) at Rutgers, The State University -
28 Newark. The mission of the center shall be to conduct collaborative
29 public scholarship on issues of structural inequality and systemic
30 racism. The center shall focus on:

31 (1) building data analysis capacity to enable local governmental
32 policymaking;

33 (2) understanding the affordable housing gap; and

34 (3) producing analyses and recommendations for reducing
35 disparities across local governments.

36 b. The Legislature shall appropriate \$1,000,000 in each fiscal
37 year to Rutgers, The State University - Newark to support the
38 objectives of the Rutgers Center on Law, Inequality and
39 Metropolitan Equity (CLiME).

40
41 3. a. There is established the Rutgers Center for Local Supply
42 Chain Resiliency (CLSCR) at Rutgers, The State University -
43 Newark. The center shall focus on:

44 (1) conducting research aimed at fostering locally sourced
45 business contracts, leading to positive social and economic impacts;

46 (2) fostering locally sourced business contracts; and

47 (3) building a robust and resilient supply chain system in the
48 State of New Jersey.

1 appropriate \$6.5 million among all five centers to be allocated
2 accordingly:

- 3 • \$1,000,000 for the Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics and
4 Race in America
- 5 • \$1,000,000 for the Rutgers Center on Law, Inequality and
6 Metropolitan Equity (CLiME)
- 7 • \$1,000,000 for the Center for Local Supply Chain Resiliency
8 (CLSCR)
- 9 • \$1,000,000 for the Re-Entry Opportunity Program for
10 Entrepreneurship in Newark (RE-OPEN)
- 11 • \$2,500,000 for the New Jersey Scholarship and
12 Transformative Education in Prisons (NJSTEP).

13
14 The primary objective of the Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics
15 and Race in America is to serve as a nonpartisan research center to
16 investigate the link between race and politics in America. It aims to
17 achieve this by functioning as a comprehensive data resource center
18 that produces and disseminates data on race and politics across all
19 levels of government. Additionally, the center is to facilitate various
20 training programs in data analysis along with a paid internship
21 program to prepare students from diverse backgrounds for careers
22 in public service.

23 The purpose of the Rutgers Center on Law, Inequality and
24 Metropolitan Equity (CLiME) is to conduct collaborative public
25 scholarship on issues of structural inequality and systemic racism.
26 Additionally, the center provides opportunities for advanced
27 training in areas such as data analysis, legal primers, and policy
28 evaluation, in order to support the development of future leaders
29 committed to social justice.

30 The goal of the Center for Local Supply Chain Resiliency
31 (CLSCR) is to serve as an applied research center aimed at
32 enhancing the resilience of New Jersey's supply chain system. The
33 center collaborates with industry stakeholders, government
34 agencies, and community organizations to address key issues such
35 as supply chain disruptions, environmental sustainability, and
36 economic development.

37 The mission of the Re-Entry Opportunity Program for
38 Entrepreneurship in Newark (RE-OPEN) is to support justice-
39 impacted youth. The program engages with partner organizations to
40 provide resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities for
41 those participating in the program.

42 The objective of the New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative
43 Education in Prisons (NJSTEP) initiative is to provide higher
44 education courses for incarcerated students and to assist in their
45 transition to college life upon release. Additionally, NJSTEP
46 facilitates transition support services, including academic
47 advisement, access to financial aid, and assistance with post-release
48 educational plans.