

ASSEMBLY, No. 2800

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)
Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN
District 34 (Essex and Passaic)
Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY
District 27 (Essex and Morris)
Assemblyman JOSEPH CRYAN
District 20 (Union)
Assemblyman ANGEL FUENTES
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

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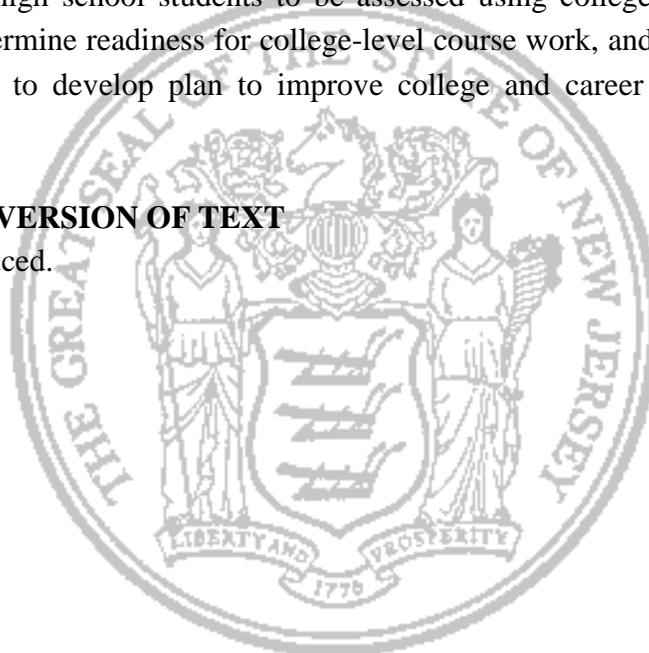
Assemblymen McGuckin and Garcia

SYNOPSIS

Requires high school students to be assessed using college placement cut scores to determine readiness for college-level course work, and Commissioner of Education to develop plan to improve college and career counseling for students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/17/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning high school curriculum requirements and
2 supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that it is the goal of the
9 State that all students achieve competency in Language Arts
10 Literacy and Mathematics by the time of the student's graduation
11 from high school.

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13 2. a. As used in this section, "cut score" means that a student
14 has achieved one of the following scores in each subject area:

15 (1) in English/Language Arts:

16 (a) a minimum score of 24 on the verbal section of the ACT,

17 (b) a minimum score of 540 on the critical reading section of the
18 SAT, or

19 (c) a score of advanced proficient on the Language Arts Literacy
20 section of the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA); and

21 (2) in Mathematics:

22 (a) a minimum score of 23 on the mathematics section of the
23 ACT,

24 (b) a minimum score of 550 on the mathematics section of the
25 SAT, or

26 (c) a score of advanced proficient on the mathematics section of
27 the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

28 b. The State Board of Education shall establish high school
29 curriculum standards that include the following requirements:

30 (1) beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, all public school
31 students shall be assessed using cut scores no later than the 11th
32 grade to determine whether the student is ready for college-level,
33 credit-bearing course work in Language Arts Literacy and
34 Mathematics;

35 (2) the Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with school
36 districts and the county colleges, shall develop and implement by
37 the 2016-2017 school year, transition courses or other instructional
38 opportunities to be provided in the 12th grade to students who have
39 not achieved college and career readiness by the end of the 11th
40 grade. The implementation of the transition courses required
41 pursuant to this paragraph shall include an assessment or
42 reassessment of the student after completion of the course, and may
43 not preclude or replace enrollment in a course otherwise required
44 for graduation from high school.

45 c. A student who successfully completes a transition course
46 shall not be required to take a college placement test upon
47 enrollment in a college or university and shall be enrolled in credit-
48 bearing course-work. A college or university may require a student

1 who fails to successfully complete a transition course to take a
2 college placement test upon enrollment and to delay the student's
3 enrollment in credit-bearing coursework until the student
4 demonstrates the skill levels required to pursue courses for credit.

5
6 3. The Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with the
7 Secretary of Higher Education and school districts, shall study the
8 development, content, and implementation of the transition courses
9 required pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of section 2 of
10 this act. The study shall include the alignment of the transition
11 courses to the Common Core State Standards and whether the
12 courses should be considered to meet high school graduation
13 standards. The study shall also determine the appropriate
14 assessment to be used to determine college and career readiness and
15 how a student's level of readiness will be reflected on the high
16 school transcript.

17 A report on the study shall be submitted to the Governor, and to
18 the Senate Higher Education and Education Committees and the
19 General Assembly Higher Education and Education Committees, or
20 their successor committees.

21
22 4. On or before December 1, 2015, the Commissioner of
23 Education shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning
25 the feasibility of the award of a State endorsed high school diploma
26 regardless of whether a student has completed the minimum number
27 of required credits or four years of high school if:

28 a. the student is assessed as college and career ready pursuant
29 to subsection b. of section 2 of this act; and

30 b. successfully completes any graduation assessment
31 requirements established by the State board.

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33 5. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop a plan, in
34 consultation with the Secretary of Higher Education, to improve
35 college and career counseling that is provided to students in middle
36 and high schools.

37 b. The plan developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section
38 shall include:

39 (1) the identification of best practices in college and career
40 counseling used in the State and nationally; and

41 (2) a recommendation for a competitive grant program to
42 implement the identified best practices.

43 c. The commissioner shall submit the plan to the Governor, and
44 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
45 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 90 days after the effective date of this
46 act.

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48 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill provides that beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, all public high school students will be assessed by the end of the 11th grade using cut scores to determine whether the student is ready for college-level, credit-bearing course work in Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. The Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with school districts and county colleges, is to develop and implement by the 2016-2017 school year, transition courses or other instructional opportunities to be provided in the 12th grade to students who have not achieved college and career readiness by the end of the 11th grade. A transition course may not replace enrollment in a course otherwise required for high school graduation.

The bill directs the Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of Higher Education and school districts, to study the development, content, and implementation of the transition courses required under the bill. The study will include the alignment of the transition courses to the Common Core State Standards and whether the courses should be considered to meet high school graduation standards. The study will also determine the appropriate assessment to be used to determine college and career readiness and how a student's level of readiness will be reflected on the high school transcript.

The bill requires that on or before December 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Education will report to the Governor and the Legislature concerning the feasibility of the award of a State endorsed high school diploma regardless of whether a student has completed the minimum number of required credits or four years of high school if the student: 1) is assessed as college and career ready under section 2 of the bill; and 2) successfully completes any graduation assessment requirements established by the State board.

Finally, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Higher Education, to develop a plan to improve college and career counseling that is provided to students in middle and high schools. The plan would identify best practices in college and career counseling in New Jersey and nationally. In addition, the plan would include recommendations for a competitive grant program that would be used to implement the best practices identified in the plan. Under the bill, the plan must be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature no later than 90 days after the effective date of the bill.