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No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:**

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No

LAW/RWH

P.L.2012, CHAPTER 2, *approved April 5, 2012*  
Senate, No. 1026

1 **AN ACT** establishing the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the  
2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title  
3 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. a. There is established in the Department of Education a  
9 four-year “VETeach Pilot Program.” The purpose of the pilot  
10 program shall be to address the shortage of certified public school  
11 teachers that is anticipated to occur due to teacher retirements, by  
12 taking advantage of the qualified workforce represented by the  
13 State’s veterans. The pilot program shall facilitate the teacher  
14 certification of veterans in order to advance the State’s goals of  
15 ensuring a qualified public school workforce and addressing the  
16 high rate of unemployment among returning veterans.

17 b. Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New  
18 Jersey shall enroll in a 36-month teacher preparation program, a  
19 single cohort of students who are veterans of the United States  
20 Armed Forces and who served on or after September 11, 2001. The  
21 program shall lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the  
22 requirements necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for  
23 a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.

24 c. Richard Stockton College of New Jersey shall establish, with  
25 the approval of the State Board of Education, the coherent sequence  
26 of courses required to be completed by a student under the pilot  
27 program in order to be eligible to receive a certificate of eligibility  
28 with advanced standing. A certificate of eligibility with advanced  
29 standing issued to a student who completes the pilot program shall  
30 authorize the student to seek employment as a teacher in grades K  
31 through 8, and in certain secondary education fields.

32 d. Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner  
33 shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to  
34 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the number of  
35 veterans who enrolled in the teacher preparation program  
36 established under the pilot program, the number of those veterans  
37 who were hired as teachers in public or nonpublic schools, and the  
38 advisability of the establishment of similar programs on a  
39 permanent basis.

1       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the  
7 Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to  
8 address the shortage of certified public school teachers that is  
9 anticipated to occur due to teacher retirements, by taking advantage  
10 of the qualified workforce represented by the State’s veterans.

11       Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New  
12 Jersey will enroll, in a 36-month teacher preparation program,  
13 veterans who served in the armed forces on or after September 11,  
14 2001. The program will lead to a baccalaureate degree and  
15 completion of the requirements necessary to apply to the State  
16 Board of Examiners for a certificate of eligibility with advanced  
17 standing, which will authorize the veteran to seek employment as a  
18 teacher in grades K through 8, and in certain secondary education  
19 fields.

20       The educational expenses incurred by these eligible students will  
21 be covered under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance  
22 Act,” also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The establishment of the  
23 pilot program represents one of a series of veteran employment  
24 initiatives to be advanced under the auspices of Operation College  
25 Promise, which provides resources to help veterans maximize the  
26 education benefits they have earned.

27       According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the  
28 unemployment rate for veterans who served since September 11,  
29 2001, was 11.5% in 2010. The unemployment rate for veterans  
30 with higher levels of education was lower than for veterans with  
31 less education.

32       Also, a 2009 report by the National Commission on Teaching  
33 and America’s Future found that more than a third of the nation’s  
34 3.2 million teachers could retire in the next four years. The high  
35 attrition rate among new teachers of nearly 33% is also troubling,  
36 and leaves school districts with a loss of teaching talent that is  
37 becoming more difficult to replace.

38       The “VETeach Pilot Program” will provide veterans with a path  
39 to education and employment. Veterans will be able to obtain  
40 higher education and employment opportunities, while filling a  
41 predicted critical shortage in the teaching profession. The program  
42 may also serve to attract a greater number of men and minorities,  
43 groups which are currently underrepresented in the teaching  
44 profession.

**S1026**

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Establishes “VETeach Pilot Program” in DOE to facilitate the  
teacher certification of veterans.

# SENATE, No. 1026

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 2012

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JIM WHELAN**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman RUBEN J. RAMOS, JR.**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

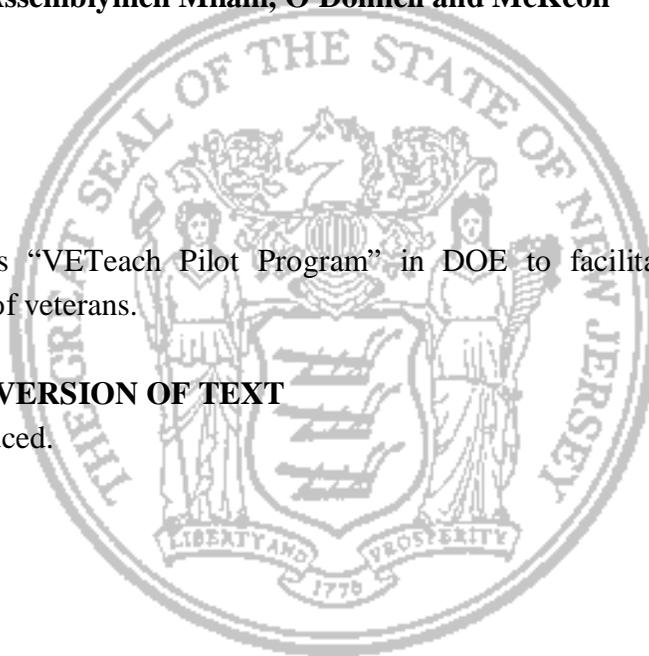
**Senators Allen, Beach, Ruiz, Madden, A.R.Bucco, Gordon, Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Gove, Assemblyman Rumpf, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblymen Milam, O'Donnell and McKeon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes "VETeach Pilot Program" in DOE to facilitate the teacher certification of veterans.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2012)

1 AN ACT establishing the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the  
2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title  
3 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. a. There is established in the Department of Education a  
9 four-year “VETeach Pilot Program.” The purpose of the pilot  
10 program shall be to address the shortage of certified public school  
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12 taking advantage of the qualified workforce represented by the  
13 State’s veterans. The pilot program shall facilitate the teacher  
14 certification of veterans in order to advance the State’s goals of  
15 ensuring a qualified public school workforce and addressing the  
16 high rate of unemployment among returning veterans.

17 b. Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New  
18 Jersey shall enroll in a 36-month teacher preparation program, a  
19 single cohort of students who are veterans of the United States  
20 Armed Forces and who served on or after September 11, 2001. The  
21 program shall lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the  
22 requirements necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for  
23 a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.

24 c. Richard Stockton College of New Jersey shall establish, with  
25 the approval of the State Board of Education, the coherent sequence  
26 of courses required to be completed by a student under the pilot  
27 program in order to be eligible to receive a certificate of eligibility  
28 with advanced standing. A certificate of eligibility with advanced  
29 standing issued to a student who completes the pilot program shall  
30 authorize the student to seek employment as a teacher in grades K  
31 through 8, and in certain secondary education fields.

32 d. Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner  
33 shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to  
34 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the number of  
35 veterans who enrolled in the teacher preparation program  
36 established under the pilot program, the number of those veterans  
37 who were hired as teachers in public or nonpublic schools, and the  
38 advisability of the establishment of similar programs on a  
39 permanent basis.

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41 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the  
47 Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to  
48 address the shortage of certified public school teachers that is

1 anticipated to occur due to teacher retirements, by taking advantage  
2 of the qualified workforce represented by the State's veterans.

3 Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New  
4 Jersey will enroll, in a 36-month teacher preparation program,  
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11 fields.

12 The educational expenses incurred by these eligible students will  
13 be covered under the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance  
14 Act," also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The establishment of the  
15 pilot program represents one of a series of veteran employment  
16 initiatives to be advanced under the auspices of Operation College  
17 Promise, which provides resources to help veterans maximize the  
18 education benefits they have earned.

19 According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the  
20 unemployment rate for veterans who served since September 11,  
21 2001, was 11.5% in 2010. The unemployment rate for veterans  
22 with higher levels of education was lower than for veterans with  
23 less education.

24 Also, a 2009 report by the National Commission on Teaching  
25 and America's Future found that more than a third of the nation's  
26 3.2 million teachers could retire in the next four years. The high  
27 attrition rate among new teachers of nearly 33% is also troubling,  
28 and leaves school districts with a loss of teaching talent that is  
29 becoming more difficult to replace.

30 The "VETeach Pilot Program" will provide veterans with a path  
31 to education and employment. Veterans will be able to obtain  
32 higher education and employment opportunities, while filling a  
33 predicted critical shortage in the teaching profession. The program  
34 may also serve to attract a greater number of men and minorities,  
35 groups which are currently underrepresented in the teaching  
36 profession.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1026**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 23, 2012

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1026.

This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the Department of Education. Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will enroll, in a 36-month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of veterans who served in the armed forces on or after September 11, 2001. The program will lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, which will authorize the veteran to seek employment as a teacher in grades K through 8, and in certain secondary education fields.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1026**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 8, 2012

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1026.

This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the Department of Education. Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will enroll, in a 36-month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of veterans who served in the armed forces on or after September 11, 2001. The program will lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, which will authorize the veteran to seek employment as a teacher in grades K through 8, and in certain secondary education fields.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1294, which was also reported by the committee on the same date.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1294

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Gove and Assemblyman Rumpf**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “VETeach Pilot Program” in DOE to facilitate the teacher certification of veterans.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/18/2012)**

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2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title  
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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36 groups which are currently underrepresented in the teaching  
37 profession.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1294**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 8, 2012

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1294.

This bill establishes the “VETeach Pilot Program” in the Department of Education. Under the pilot program, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will enroll, in a 36-month teacher preparation program, a single cohort of veterans who served in the armed forces on or after September 11, 2001. The program will lead to a baccalaureate degree and completion of the requirements necessary to apply to the State Board of Examiners for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, which will authorize the veteran to seek employment as a teacher in grades K through 8, and in certain secondary education fields.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1026, which was also reported by the committee on the same date.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

# Acting Governor Kim Guadagno Signs Legislation Creating Landmark VETeach Program To Help Veterans Become Teachers

Thursday, April 5, 2012 Tags: [Other](#)

Trenton, NJ – Seeking to capitalize on the unique skills and experience of New Jersey’s military veterans, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today signed legislation creating a pilot program to assist post-9/11 veterans transition into teaching careers. The legislation, S-1026, creates a 36-month teacher preparation pilot program, called the “VETeach Pilot Program,” at Richard Stockton College for veterans who served in the armed forces on or after September 11, 2001.

“New Jersey’s veterans are among the most disciplined and highly trained members of the state’s workforce. Our school districts will benefit in a very meaningful way by having these dedicated men and women apply their experience in the service of educating of New Jersey’s children,” said Acting Governor Guadagno. “Not only will these veterans serve our state in the classroom, their personal sacrifice on behalf of our nation serves as a great example to students about the meaning of service, community and dedication.”

Veterans who successfully complete the program will receive a bachelor’s degree and satisfy the requirements to apply for a certificate to teach grades kindergarten through eight, and in certain secondary education fields. Tuition for eligible students will be covered entirely by the federal “Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act,” which provides 36 months of tuition benefits.

“Enactment of this legislation demonstrates a commitment by Governor Christie and Acting Governor Guadagno to support innovative programs that assist veterans transitioning from the military and into civilian life and civilian careers,” said Wendy Lang, project director for Operation College Promise, a national organization that assists veterans and veterans’ service providers. “The VETeach program establishes a direct link between leadership skills our veterans gained through their service and their ability to contribute in the classroom.”

Stockton plans to prepare future educators enrolled in the pilot program to teach “STEM” subjects – science, technology, engineering and math – fields that are critical for 21st century students. Enrollment for veterans is expected to begin during the fall 2012 semester.

“This program is a win-win-win for veterans, Richard Stockton College, and the school districts and students that will ultimately benefit from a new generation of enthusiastic and dedicated veteran teachers,” said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Stockton’s provost. “We expect this program will be a great success, serve as a national model, and ultimately become a permanent part of our teacher education offerings.”

“I am proud that Stockton College will launch this program – to our knowledge the first of its kind in the country – to serve our veterans. These future teachers have defended our way of life, and the VETeach program will empower them to access their American dream, all while serving our youth,” said Rochelle Hendricks, Secretary of Higher Education. “This program will also help serve the important purpose of attracting more men and minorities into the teaching profession, where they can continue to build on their tradition of service to our country.”

The Christie Administration has maintained a commitment to support New Jersey’s veterans. On Tuesday, Acting Governor Guadagno and Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Hal Wirths kicked off the ‘Operation Hire a Jersey Hero’ Symposium, an event focused on promoting job opportunities for veterans by connecting employers with state resources available to support the hiring of veterans.

In his Fiscal Year 2013 Budget, Governor Christie is expanding the highly effective Veterans Haven program to serve veterans in the northern part of the state at the site of Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital. Governor Christie has also signed various pieces of legislation to assist veterans, including bills to strengthen the support network for military families after the death of a service member; establish a program that awards high school diplomas to veterans who dropped out to serve in World War II, Korea and Vietnam; honor Gold Star Families with a special license plate for families of members of the military killed in action for their sacrifice; establish the New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council Fund; ensure funding for the Veteran to Veteran Peer Support Program telephone helpline; and reinvigorate programs like Helmets2Hardhats to put veterans back to work.

Primary sponsors of S-1026 legislation include Senators Jim Whelan (D-Atlantic), Christopher J. Connors (R-Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean), Assemblymembers Mila M. Jasey (D-Essex and Morris), Wayne P. DeAngelo (D-Mercer and

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###

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