

18A:6-8.5 & 18A:6-8.6
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2010 **CHAPTER:** 13

NJSA: 18A:6-8.5 & 18A:6-8.6 (Requires certain conditions be met in order for school districts to provide their employees with tuition assistance for coursework or additional compensation upon acquisition of academic credits or completion of a degree program.)

BILL NO: S826 (Substituted for A1894)

SPONSOR(S) Codey and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: January 12, 2010

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** February 25, 2010

SENATE: February 22, 2010

DATE OF APPROVAL: May 6, 2010

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted)

S826

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE: No

A1894

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT A2059: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	No
GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

LAW/KR

SENATE, No. 826

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex)

Senator JENNIFER BECK

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblyman JOSEPH CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman CAROLINE CASAGRANDE

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DAVID P. RIBLE

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

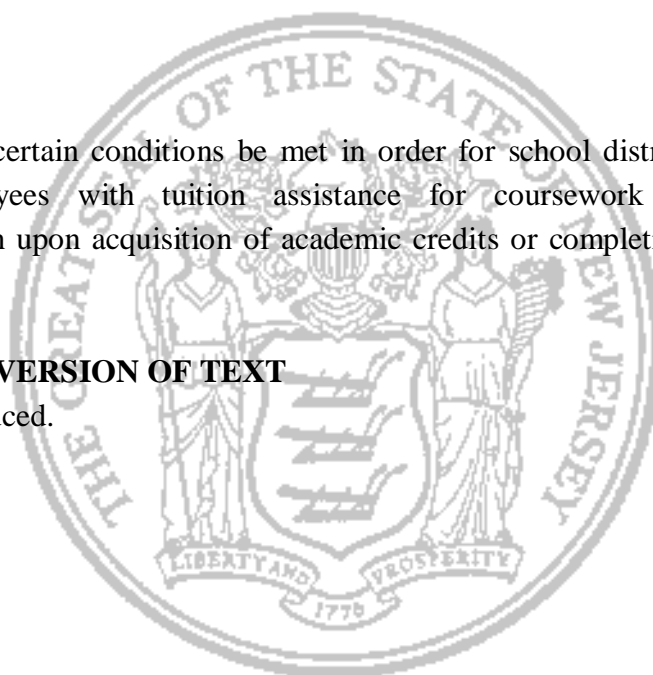
**Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Webber, Coughlin and
Assemblywoman Coyle**

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain conditions be met in order for school districts to provide their employees with tuition assistance for coursework or additional compensation upon acquisition of academic credits or completion of a degree program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/26/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning certain benefits for school district employees
2 and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. In order for a board of education to provide to an employee
9 tuition assistance for coursework taken at an institution of higher
10 education or additional compensation upon the acquisition of
11 additional academic credits or completion of a degree program at an
12 institution of higher education:

13 a. The institution shall be a duly authorized institution of
14 higher education as defined in section 3 of P.L.1986, c.87
15 (C.18A:3-15.3);

16 b. The employee shall obtain approval from the superintendent
17 of schools prior to enrollment in any course for which tuition
18 assistance is sought. In the event that the superintendent denies the
19 approval, the employee may appeal the denial to the board of
20 education.

21 In the case of a superintendent, the approval shall be obtained
22 from the board of education; and

23 c. The tuition assistance or additional compensation shall be
24 provided only for a course or degree related to the employee's
25 current or future job responsibilities.

26
27 2. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the authority
28 of a board of education to establish more stringent requirements for
29 the provision of tuition assistance or additional compensation than
30 the requirements set forth in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
31 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

32
33 3. This act shall take effect on July 1 of the school year next
34 following the date of enactment, except that this act shall not be
35 deemed to impair an obligation set forth in a collective negotiations
36 agreement or an individual contract of employment in effect on the
37 effective date.

38
39
40 **STATEMENT**

41
42 This bill requires that in order for a board of education to provide
43 its employees tuition assistance for academic coursework at an
44 institution of higher education or additional compensation upon the
45 acquisition of additional academic credits or completion of a degree
46 program at an institution of higher education:

1 1) The institution of higher education must be a “duly
2 authorized institution of higher education,” which is defined in
3 State law at section 3 of P.L.1986, c.87 (C.18A:3-15.3);

4 2) The employee must obtain approval from the superintendent
5 of schools prior to enrollment in any course for which tuition
6 assistance is sought. In the event that the superintendent denies the
7 approval, the employee may appeal the denial to the board of
8 education. In the case of a superintendent of schools, the approval
9 must be obtained from the board of education; and,

10 3) The course or degree must be related to the employee’s
11 current or future job responsibilities.

12 The bill provides that a board of education may establish more
13 stringent requirements for the provision of tuition assistance or
14 additional compensation than are set forth in the bill.

15 The bill would become effective on July 1 of the school year
16 next following the date of enactment. However, the bill’s
17 provisions will not be deemed to impair an obligation set forth in
18 any collective negotiations agreement or any individual contract of
19 employment in effect on that July 1.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2010

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman CAROLINE CASAGRANDE

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DAVID P. RIBLE

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

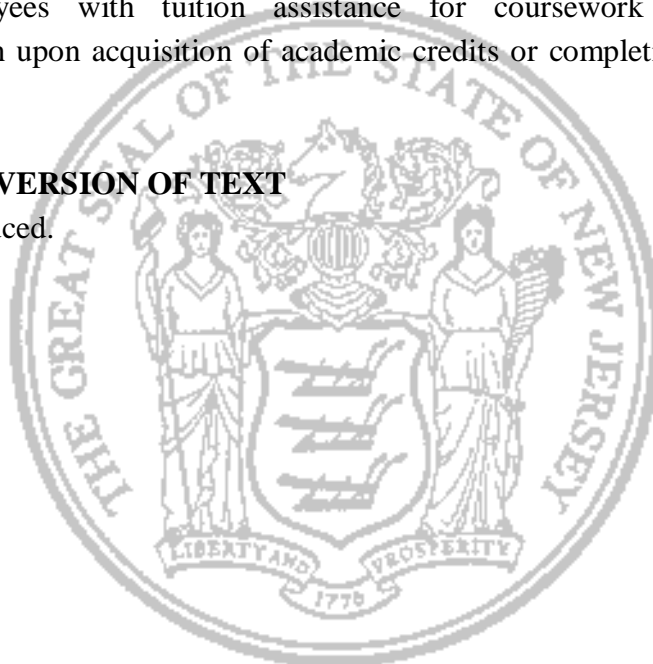
**Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Webber, Coughlin and
Assemblywoman Coyle**

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain conditions be met in order for school districts to provide their employees with tuition assistance for coursework or additional compensation upon acquisition of academic credits or completion of a degree program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/26/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning certain benefits for school district employees
2 and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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17 of schools prior to enrollment in any course for which tuition
18 assistance is sought. In the event that the superintendent denies the
19 approval, the employee may appeal the denial to the board of
20 education.

21 In the case of a superintendent, the approval shall be obtained
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23 c. The tuition assistance or additional compensation shall be
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31 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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13 stringent requirements for the provision of tuition assistance or
14 additional compensation than are set forth in the bill.

15 The bill would become effective on July 1 of the school year
16 next following the date of enactment. However, the bill’s
17 provisions will not be deemed to impair an obligation set forth in
18 any collective negotiations agreement or any individual contract of
19 employment in effect on that July 1.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 18, 2010

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1894.

This bill requires that in order for a board of education to provide its employees tuition assistance for academic coursework at an institution of higher education or additional compensation upon the acquisition of additional academic credits or completion of a degree program at an institution of higher education:

1) The institution of higher education must be a “duly authorized institution of higher education,” which is defined in State law at section 3 of P.L.1986, c.87 (C.18A:3-15.3);

2) The employee must obtain approval from the superintendent of schools prior to enrollment in any course for which tuition assistance is sought. In the event that the superintendent denies the approval, the employee may appeal the denial to the board of education. In the case of a superintendent of schools, the approval must be obtained from the board of education; and,

3) The course or degree must be related to the employee’s current or future job responsibilities.

The bill provides that a board of education may establish more stringent requirements for the provision of tuition assistance or additional compensation than are set forth in the bill.

The bill would become effective on July 1 of the school year next following the date of enactment. However, the bill’s provisions will not be deemed to impair an obligation set forth in any collective negotiations agreement or any individual contract of employment in effect on that July 1.

**GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE'S
STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
SENATE BILL No. 826**

Senate Bill No. 826, which I sign today, requires that certain conditions be met in order for a school district to provide its employees with tuition assistance or additional compensation upon the acquisition of academic credits or an advanced degree. This new law helps ensure that our teachers are educated through reputable institutions of higher education, and also provides a small positive step towards controlling the use and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

In our public schools, teachers can increase their salaries either through longevity or by acquiring advanced credits or degrees. Many districts not only provide salary bumps for advanced degrees, but also additional compensation for simply obtaining graduate credits, and tuition reimbursement. Teachers, therefore, have a clear financial incentive to enroll in advanced courses of study, whether or not those advanced courses actually improve their classroom performance.

Yet, recent studies have shown that graduate degrees by themselves do not necessarily translate into improved teacher quality or student achievement. In fact, it is documented that teachers who have completed graduate degrees are not significantly more effective at increasing student learning than those with only bachelor's degrees. Some studies have even concluded an inverse relationship between graduate degree attainment and student achievement. A 2007 study, for example, concludes that "elementary teachers with master's degrees appear to be less effective, on average, than those without advanced degrees if they earned the degree more than five years after they started teaching." There is an exception: master's degrees in math or science have been linked to improved student achievement in those areas. Nationwide, however, ninety percent of graduate degrees are in education, and not in a subject-specific area.

Approximately forty-two percent of New Jersey teachers have a master's degree or above. These degrees reportedly trigger over \$225.5 million in additional compensation. This is an astounding figure, particularly in light of our current fiscal crisis.

Therefore, the time is ripe to closely examine the current teacher compensation structure in New Jersey to ensure that these taxpayer dollars do, in fact, translate into improved teaching and student achievement. Towards that end, as I sign this bill, I also direct the Commissioner of Education to examine the effectiveness of our current compensation system and provide a report outlining the Department's findings and recommendations.

/s/ CHRIS CHRISTIE

DATED: 5/6/10

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

/s/JEFFREY S. CHIESA

CHIEF COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR