

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 18A:29-1 to 18A:29-7

"Governor's Annual
Teacher Recognition Act"

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER: 322

Bill No: A3738

Sponsor(s): Rocco and others

Date Introduced: June 17, 1985

Committee: Assembly: -----

Senate: -----

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments denoted by asterisks
according to Governor's recommendations

Date of Passage: Assembly: June 20, 1985 Re-enacted 8-28-85

Senate: June 27, 1985 Re-enacted 9-9-85

Date of Approval: September 9, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly No

Senate No

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: Yes

Message on Signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: Yes

Hearings: No

Blueprint for Educational Reform, mentioned in veto message:

974.90 New Jersey. Governor (1982- :Kean)
E24 Education in New Jersey: a blueprint for reform: speech before a
1983j joint session of Legislature, September 6, 1983. Trenton, 1983.
(pp. 23-29)

(OVER)

For background on similar proposed "master" teachers, see:

- 974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate. Committee on Education.
E24 Public hearing on excellence in education, held 10-21-83. Bergenfield,
1983r N.J., 1983.
- 974.90 New Jersey. Governor's Commission on Master Teachers.
E24 Pilot master teacher program: an implementation plan for
1984h New Jersey . . . May, 1984. Trenton, 1984.
- 974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. General Assembly. Committee on Education
E24 Public hearing on A2170, "Master Teacher," held 11-27-84,
1984s East Orange, 12-4-84, W. Long Branch, N.J.

9-9-85

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3738**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED JUNE 17, 1985

By Assemblymen ROCCO, SHUSTED, DORIA, SCHUBER, KOSCO,
PALAIA, Assemblywoman MUHLER, Assemblyman BENNETT,
Assemblywoman GARVIN, Assemblymen NAPLES, BOCCHINI
and PATERO

AN ACT establishing the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching, supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes***[**, and making an appropriation]*.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Governor's
2 Annual Teacher Recognition Act."

1 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 a. The success of the public school system in this State is based
3 upon the quality and dedication of our teaching staff members.

4 b. Providing for local and Statewide recognition of outstanding
5 teaching will demonstrate our appreciation of excellence and en-
6 courage others to strive for the same.

7 c. Giving the teaching profession the stature and recognition it
8 deserves will help attract and retain the most able individuals in
9 the profession of teaching, a process which is critical to the future
10 well-being of the State and its citizens.

11 **d. In teaching, as in other professions, practitioners should be*
12 *acknowledged for outstanding performance.**

13 ***[d.]*** **e.** The purpose of this act is to provide for Statewide
14 awards and recognition of the excellence of current members of the
15 teaching profession.

1 3. ***[Annually]*** **In order to provide Statewide awards and rec-*

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill
is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

***—Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recom-
mendations August 28, 1985.**

2 *ognition of the excellence of current members of the teaching pro-*
 3 *fession**, each school district may **annually** establish a teacher
 3A recognition selection panel **[including]** **composed of** members
 3B of the teaching staff, administrative staff, parents and other citizens
 3C **for the purpose of selecting recipients for the Governor's Annual*
 3D *Award for Outstanding Teaching**.

4 This panel shall be composed of up to nine members as follows:

5 a. three members to be selected by the local board of education;

6 b. three members to be selected by the local bargaining unit
 7 which represents the classroom teachers of the district. Should
 8 that bargaining unit choose not to appoint members to the panel,
 9 then the board of education shall appoint **[no more than six]**
 10 **up to three** additional members **[from the public]**;

11 c. **[should the bargaining unit appoint three members to the*
 12 *panel then those members and the three members appointed under*
 13 *subsection a. of this section shall appoint three additional members*
 14 *to the panel]** **three additional members selected jointly by the*
 15 *members selected under subsections a. and b. of this section**.

16 **Should the members selected pursuant to subsections a. and b.*
 17 *of this section fail to agree on the selection of the three additional*
 18 *members, then the additional members shall be selected by the local*
 19 *mayor from among the district's parent organization.**

1 4. The teacher recognition selection panel may nominate to the
 2 local board of education **one** nonadministrative teaching staff
 3 **[members]** **member from each school in the district having 10*
 4 *or more teachers** who, because of their knowledge, commitment,
 5 and creativity have made an extraordinary contribution **during the*
 6 *previous school year** to the quality of education in that district.
 7 **Schools having fewer than 10 teachers may consolidate with other*
 8 *schools for the purpose of participating in this program, provided*
 9 *that the combined number of teachers is 10 or more.** In selecting
 10 teaching staff members for the Governor's Annual Award for Out-
 11 standing Teaching, the panel may solicit nominations from teaching
 12 staff, administrative staff, parents, students, and community mem-
 13 bers.

14 Teaching staff members who are selected for the Governor's
 14A Annual Teacher Recognition Award shall have distinguished them-
 14B selves through exceptional contributions in **[any of]** the follow-
 14C ing **areas**:

14D **[a. outstanding in classroom teaching;*

14E b. encouragement in pupils of feelings of self-worth and the love
 14F of learning;

15 c. support for the professional growth of other teaching staff
16 members;

17 d. improvement of the quality of life in the school. The local
18 board of education shall certify by March 15 of each year to the
19 Commissioner of Education the names of the district's teaching
20 staff members as recipients of the Governor's Award.】*

21 *a. use of effective instructional techniques and methods;

22 b. establishment of productive classroom climate and rapport
23 with pupils; and

24 c. development of feelings of self-worth and the love of learning
25 in pupils.

26 *The selection panel shall consider evidence of these contributions*
27 *in making its decisions. Teachers selected for this award shall have*
28 *received exemplary local district evaluation reports. School dis-*
29 *tricts may also consider other evidence of outstanding teaching*
30 *performance.*

31 *Teachers selected for the Governor's Award shall also have other*
32 *acceptable personnel records which are devoid of recent sanctions*
33 *or deficiencies.*

34 *The local board of education may certify to the commissioner the*
35 *name of one teaching staff member from each school or combina-*
36 *tion of schools in the district having 10 or more teachers as a recipi-*
37 *ent of the Governor's Award. The local board may not certify the*
38 *names of any teaching staff members who were not nominated by*
39 *the teacher recognition selection panel. The State shall provide*
40 *funds in an amount equal to \$1,000.00 for each teacher selected*
41 *pursuant to this act. These funds shall be forwarded in the teacher's*
42 *name to the district for an educational purpose designated by the*
43 *teacher. Districts that do not comply with all the provisions of*
44 *this act shall not be included in the Governor's Award Program.*

45 *Award recipients shall not be eligible for renomination for two*
46 *years following their selection.**

1 5. Annually, *【by May 15,】* the Governor shall sponsor a con-
2 vocation on "Excellence in Teaching" at which time each teaching
3 staff member who has been selected by a local school district shall
4 be awarded a certificate of commendation. *【In addition】* *At this
5 convocation*, each teacher so selected shall be awarded *【an
6 amount】* *a proportion* of *the* funds *【equally proportionate
7 to the number of teachers selected in the district】* *provided pur-
8 suant to this act*. *【The teacher shall determine the way in which
9 these funds may best be utilized for their local school district, which
9A may include, but need not be limited to:

10 a. curriculum development;

- 11 b. student development;
 12 c. school improvement; and
 13 d. faculty development.】*

1 *【6. In order to assist local districts to recognize and encourage
 2 effective teaching, the State shall provide special funds to each
 3 district in an amount equal to \$500.00 multiplied by 5% of the
 4 total number of nonadministrative teaching staff members in that
 5 district; except that no district shall receive an amount less than
 6 \$4,000.00 or greater than \$80,000.00.】*

1 *【7.】* *6.* The funds provided pursuant to section *【6 of P. L.
 2 ..., c. ... (C.) (now pending before the Legisla-
 3 ture as this bill)】* *4 of this act* are not to be subject to the expen-
 4 diture limitation established pursuant to section 25 of P. L. 1975,
 5 c. 212 (C. 18A:7A-25).

1 *【8.】* *7.* Five years following the implementation of this act,
 2 the *【Joint Committee on the Public Schools and the】* Com-
 3 missioner of Education shall review the *【Teacher Recognition Pro-
 4 gram】* *Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching* to
 5 assess and determine its effectiveness in promoting excellence in
 6 teaching *【and its impact on the State's ability to attract and re-
 7 tain outstanding new teachers】*. On completion of the review,
 8 recommendations shall be made to the Governor and the Legislature
 9 concerning the continuation of the program and any *proposed*
 10 changes or modifications *【which might be appropriate】*.

1 *【9.】* *8.* The State Board of Education shall, pursuant to the
 2 "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et
 3 seq.), adopt rules and regulations which are necessary to effectuate
 4 the purposes of this act.

1 *【10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the De-
 2 partment of Education \$2,200,000.00 for the purposes of this act.】*

1 *【11.】* *9.* This act shall take effect immediately but shall re-
 2 main inoperative until the enactment and implementation of P. L.
 3 ..., c. ... (C.) (now pending before the Legisla-
 4 ture as Senate Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 634 2nd
 5 OCR of 1984 and Assembly Bill No. 635 OCR of 1984).

4 total number of nonadministrative teaching staff members in that
5 district; except that no district shall receive an amount less than
6 \$4,000.00 or greater than \$80,000.00.

1 7. The funds provided pursuant to section 6 of P. L. . . . , c. . . .
2 (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this
3 bill) are not to be subject to the expenditure limitation established
4 pursuant to section 25 of P. L. 1975, c. 212 (C. 18A:7A-25).

1 8. Five years following the implementation of this act, the Joint
2 Committee on the Public Schools and the Commissioner of Educa-
3 tion shall review the Teacher Recognition Program to assess and
4 determine its effectiveness in promoting excellence in teaching
5 and its impact on the State's ability to attract and retain out-
6 standing new teachers. On completion of the review, recommenda-
7 tions shall be made to the Governor and the Legislature concerning
8 the continuation of the program and any changes or modifications
9 which might be appropriate.

1 9. The State Board of Education shall, pursuant to the "Admin-
2 istrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.),
3 adopt rules and regulations which are necessary to effectuate the
4 purposes of this act.

1 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Depart-
2 ment of Education \$2,200,000.00 for the purposes of this act.

1 11. This act shall take effect immediately but shall remain in-
2 operative until the enactment and implementation of P. L. . . . ,
3 c. . . . (C.) (now pending before the Legislature
4 as Senate Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 634 2nd OCR
5 of 1984 and Assembly Bill No. 635 OCR of 1984).

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the "Governor's Annual Teacher Recognition Act" that annually recognizes and provides grants for outstanding teaching.

This bill establishes the Governor's Annual Award for outstanding teaching. It would allow a school district to establish a teacher recognition selection panel consisting of three members appointed by the board of education, three by the local bargaining unit and three appointed by the initial six appointees. Should the bargaining unit choose not to participate, the board could appoint up to six additional members.

The selection panel may nominate to the local board teachers who have made an extraordinary contribution to the quality of life in the school based on such criteria as outstanding classroom teaching and the support and encouragement they give to students

43732 (955)

and fellow teachers. The names of those selected shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by March 15 for special recognition at a Governor's convocation on "Excellence in Teaching" to be held annually by May 15.

At the convocation, the teacher shall be awarded a certificate of commendation, and shall receive a proportionate amount of the funds allocated to the district. The teacher shall determine how these funds shall best be utilized.

The funds for each district shall be equal to \$500.00 multiplied by 5% of the total number of teachers in the district with a minimum of \$4,000.00 and a maximum of \$80,000.00 per district.

The bill appropriates \$2,200,000.00 for the program.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

August 28, 1985

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3738

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 1, Paragraph 14 of the Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3738 with my objections and recommendations for amendment.

This bill establishes a Governor's Annual Teacher Recognition Award which provides grants for outstanding teaching. An appropriation of \$2.2 million is provided for the implementation of this program.

Although I originated the concept of a teacher recognition program in my Blueprint for Education Reform in September of 1983, I am conditionally vetoing this legislation because it does not accomplish the proper goal of a teacher recognition program, which is to identify and reward truly outstanding classroom teachers.

Under this bill, an unlimited number of teachers in each district could be selected as award recipients. Because there is no restriction on the number of teachers eligible for selection, it is conceivable that every teacher in a given district could be selected for the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching. The bill further provides that each district would receive an appropriation from the State equal to \$500 multiplied by 5% of the teachers in the district, provided that no district would receive less than \$4,000 or more than \$80,000. These funds would be given to the local school board and used for purposes selected by the award recipients.

Because this program is intended to identify those few clearly outstanding individuals who perform above and beyond what is normally expected of teaching professionals, it is necessary to establish quantitative quality control measures such as clearly defined limit on the number of teachers who may be selected and specific performance criteria. To omit these standards would only serve to establish a program which lacks focus and would be difficult to administer. In addition, I am proposing changes designed to improve the composition of the teacher selection panel.

For these reasons, I am limiting eligibility for the award program to one teacher from each school having ten or more teachers to ensure that only those truly superior teachers are selected. Schools having fewer than ten teachers are permitted to consolidate with other schools for the purposes of this

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

2

program, provided that the combined number of teachers is ten or more. In order to ensure that all outstanding teachers have an opportunity to be recognized, I am recommending that award recipients be ineligible for renomination for two years following their selection. I have also recommended strengthening the eligibility criteria in the bill by providing that award recipients must have exemplary local district evaluation reports and other acceptable personnel records.

Since the intent of this proposal is to provide an incentive to those teachers who truly excel at their craft, I am also recommending that each award recipient receive \$1,000, which shall be forwarded to the school in the teacher's name for an educational purpose designated by the teacher. While this amount is admittedly modest, it serves as a tangible acknowledgement that the State and the affected community appreciate excellence in teaching. I have also eliminated the minimum and maximum provisions, as I feel that each teacher selected should be recognized equally.

I am also deleting the appropriation of \$2.2 million provided in the bill, as these funds have already been appropriated through Senate Bill No. 3002 (P.L. 1985, c. 268).

Due to the necessity of having the teacher recognition plan enrolled in sufficient time for implementation in September of 1985, I am strongly urging the Legislature to approve these recommendations at its August 28, 1985 session in order to make possible the implementation of this act for the 1985-86 school year.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3738 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 1, Title, line 3: After "Statutes" delete ", and making an appropriation".

Page 1, Section 2, after line 10: Insert new subsection as follows:

"d. In teaching, as in other professions, practitioners should be acknowledged for outstanding performance."

Page 1, Section 2, line 11: Delete "d." and insert "e."

Page 1, Section 3, line 1: Delete "Annually" and insert "In order to provide Statewide awards and recognition of the excellence of current members of the teaching profession". After "may" insert "annually".

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

3

Page 1, Section 3, line 2: Delete "including" and insert "composed of".

Page 1, Section 3, line 3: After "citizens" insert "for the purpose of selecting recipients for the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching".

Page 2, Section 3, line 9: Delete "no more than six" and insert "up to three".

Page 2, Section 3, line 10: Delete "from the public".

Page 2, Section 3, lines 11-14: After "c." delete lines 11-13 in entirety, delete "to the panel on line 14 and insert "three additional members selected jointly by the members selected under subsections a. and b. of this section".

Page 2, Section 3, after line 14: Insert new paragraph as follows:

" Should the members selected pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this section fail to agree on the selection of the three additional members, then the additional members shall be selected by the local mayor from among the district's parent organization."

Page 2, Section 4, line 2: After "education" insert "one". Delete "members" and insert "member from each school in the district having ten or more teachers".

Page 2, Section 4, line 4: After "contribution" insert "during the previous school year".

Page 2, Section 4, line 5: After "district." insert "Schools having fewer than ten teachers may consolidate with other schools for the purpose of participating in this program, provided that the combined number of teachers is ten or more."

Page 2, Section 4, line 11: Delete "any of". After "following" insert "areas".

Page 2, Section 4, lines 12-20: Delete in their entirety and insert new subsections as follows:

- "a. use of effective instructional techniques and methods;
- b. establishment of productive classroom climate and rapport with pupils; and
- c. development of feelings of self worth and the love of learning in pupils.

The selection panel shall consider evidence of these contributions in making its decisions. Teachers selected for this award shall have received exemplary local district evaluation reports. School districts may also consider other evidence of outstanding teaching performance.

Teachers selected for the Governor's award shall also have other acceptable personnel records which are devoid of recent sanctions or deficiencies.

The local board of education may certify to the commissioner the name of one teaching staff member from each school or combination of schools in the district having ten or more teachers as a recipient of the Governor's Award. The local board may not certify the names of any teaching staff members who were not nominated by the teacher recognition selection panel. The State shall provide funds in an amount equal to \$1,000.00 for each teacher selected pursuant to this

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

4

act. These funds shall be forwarded in the teacher's name to the district for an educational purpose designated by the teacher. Districts that do not comply with all the provisions of this act shall not be included in the Governor's Award Program.

Award recipients shall not be eligible for renomination for two years following their selection."

Page 2, Section 5, line 1: Delete "by May 15,".

Page 2, Section 5, line 4: Delete "In addition" and insert "At this convocation".

Page 2, Section 5, lines 5-6: Delete "an amount" on line 5 and insert "a proportion". After "of" on line 5 insert "the". Delete "equally proportionate to the number of teachers selected in the district" and insert "provided pursuant to this act".

Page 2, Section 5, lines 6-13: Delete in their entirety.

Pages 2-3, Section 6, lines 1-6: Delete in their entirety.

Page 3, Section 7, lines 1-3: Delete "7." on line 1 and insert "6". After "section" on line 1, delete remainder of line, delete lines 2-3 in their entirety, and delete "bill)" from line 3; insert "4 of this act".

Page 3, Section 8, lines 1-2: Delete "8." on line 1 and insert "7.". Delete "Joint Committee on the Public Schools and the".

Page 3, Section 8, line 3: Delete "Teacher Recognition Program" and insert "Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching".

Page 3, Section 8, lines 5-6: Delete "and its impact on the State's ability to attract and retain outstanding new teachers".

Page 3, Section 8, line 8: After "any" insert "proposed".

Page 3, Section 8, line 9: Delete "which might be appropriate".

Page 3, Section 9, line 1: Delete "9." and insert "8.".

Page 3, Section 10, lines 1-2: Delete in their entirety.

Page 3, Section 11, line 1: Delete "11." and insert "9.".

Respectfully,
/s/ Thomas H. Kean
GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ W. Cary Edwards
Chief Counsel