

18A:61C-10 to 18A:61C-13

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2014 **CHAPTER:** 74

NJSA: 18A:61C-10 to 18A:61C-13 (Allows school districts and requires public colleges to enter into dual enrollment agreements to provide college-level instruction to high school students through courses offered on college or high school campuses)

BILL NO: A3338 (Substituted for S2226)

SPONSOR(S) Prieto and others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 22, 2014

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 26, 2014

SENATE: October 14, 2014

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 3, 2014

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second reprint enacted)

A3338

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Education

SENATE: Yes Education

(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: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S2226

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Christie signs Prieto bills to expand vocational education programs," The Times, 12-4-14

"State senate backs measures to boost vocational education," Star-Ledger, 10-15-14

LAW/RWH

§§1-4 -
C.18A:61C-10 to
18A:61C-13
§5 - Repealer
§6 - Note

P.L.2014, CHAPTER 74, *approved December 3, 2014*
Assembly, No. 3338 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning dual enrollment programs, supplementing
2 chapter 61C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and
3 repealing P.L.1986, c.193 and P.L.1986, c.194.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. ¹**[**Within one year of the effective date of this act, a] A¹
9 school district with a high school ¹**[**shall] may¹ enter into a dual
10 enrollment agreement with one or more public institutions of higher
11 education.

12 b. ¹**[**Within one year of the effective date of this act, a] A¹
13 public institution of higher education ², other than a State college
14 which generally limits enrollment in its undergraduate programs to
15 persons who are at least 21 years of age,² shall enter into a dual
16 enrollment agreement with one or more school districts with a high
17 school.

18 c. A dual enrollment agreement between a public institution of
19 higher education and a school district shall delineate the dual
20 enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to
21 high school students through courses offered by the institution of
22 higher education on its campus or on the campus of the public high
23 school for college credit or credit toward a career certificate.

24 d. The dual enrollment agreement shall include:

25 (1) a description of the courses available to students eligible to
26 participate in the dual enrollment program;

27 (2) a description of the student eligibility requirements for
28 initial and continuing participation in the dual enrollment program,
29 which shall include a provision that ensures that an eligible student
30 is not excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;

31 (3) a description of the process by which a student and his
32 parent or guardian exercise the option to participate in the dual
33 enrollment program;

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 underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 12, 2014.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted June 23, 2014.

1 (4) a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment course taught
2 on the high school campus is equivalent in rigor to courses taught
3 on the campus of the institution of higher education;

4 (5) a description of the process by which a student and his
5 parent or guardian are informed about opportunities for student
6 participation in the dual enrollment program; and

7 (6) such other items as deemed appropriate by the
8 Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.
9

10 2. A public institution of higher education shall accept the
11 course credit of a student who successfully completes a course
12 under the dual enrollment program.
13

14 3. The Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher
15 Education shall submit annually a joint report to the Governor and
16 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
17 (C.52:14-19.1), on dual enrollment programs in the State. The
18 report shall include, but need not be limited to: information related
19 to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State,
20 including information specific to the income-level and location
21 within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment
22 programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion
23 and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating
24 students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to
25 the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for any
26 suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.
27

28 4. The State Board of Education and the Secretary of Higher
29 Education each shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative
30 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
31 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.
32

33 5. The following sections are repealed:
34 Sections 1 and 3 of P.L.1986, c.194 (C.18A:61C-1 and
35 C.18A:61C-3); and
36 Sections 1 through 7 of P.L.1986, c.193 (C.18A:61C-4 through
37 C.18A:61C-9).
38

39 6. This act shall take effect ¹**[immediately]** in the 2015-2016
40 school year¹.
41
42
43

44
45 _____
46 Allows school districts and requires public colleges to enter into
47 dual enrollment agreements to provide college-level instruction to
48 high school students through courses offered on college or high
school campuses.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblywoman SHEILA Y. OLIVER

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman DAVID P. RIBLE

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

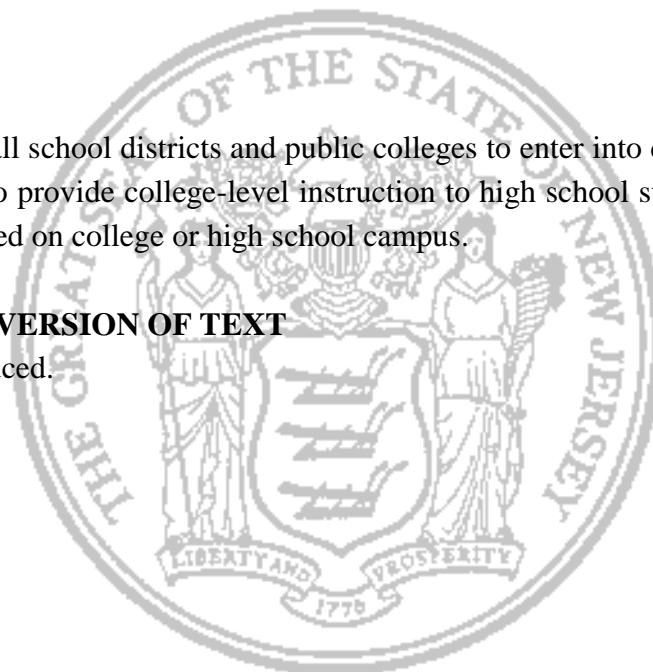
**Assemblywomen Pinkin, Jasey, Watson Coleman, Assemblymen Caputo,
Wolfe and Singleton**

SYNOPSIS

Requires all school districts and public colleges to enter into dual enrollment agreements to provide college-level instruction to high school students through courses offered on college or high school campus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/13/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning dual enrollment programs, supplementing
2 chapter 61C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and
3 repealing P.L.1986, c.193 and P.L.1986, c.194.

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

7
8 1. a. Within one year of the effective date of this act, a school
9 district with a high school shall enter into a dual enrollment
10 agreement with one or more public institutions of higher education.

11 b. Within one year of the effective date of this act, a public
12 institution of higher education shall enter into a dual enrollment
13 agreement with one or more school districts with a high school.

14 c. A dual enrollment agreement between a public institution of
15 higher education and a school district shall delineate the dual
16 enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to
17 high school students through courses offered by the institution of
18 higher education on its campus or on the campus of the public high
19 school for college credit or credit toward a career certificate.

20 d. The dual enrollment agreement shall include:

21 (1) a description of the courses available to students eligible to
22 participate in the dual enrollment program;

23 (2) a description of the student eligibility requirements for initial
24 and continuing participation in the dual enrollment program, which
25 shall include a provision that ensures that an eligible student is not
26 excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;

27 (3) a description of the process by which a student and his
28 parent or guardian exercise the option to participate in the dual
29 enrollment program;

30 (4) a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment course taught
31 on the high school campus is equivalent in rigor to courses taught
32 on the campus of the institution of higher education;

33 (5) a description of the process by which a student and his
34 parent or guardian are informed about opportunities for student
35 participation in the dual enrollment program; and

36 (6) such other items as deemed appropriate by the
37 Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

38
39 2. A public institution of higher education shall accept the
40 course credit of a student who successfully completes a course
41 under the dual enrollment program.

42
43 3. The Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher
44 Education shall submit annually a joint report to the Governor and
45 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
46 (C.52:14-19.1), on dual enrollment programs in the State. The
47 report shall include, but need not be limited to: information related
48 to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State,

1 including information specific to the income-level and location
2 within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment
3 programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion
4 and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating
5 students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to
6 the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for any
7 suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.

8
9 4. The State Board of Education and the Secretary of Higher
10 Education each shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative
11 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
12 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

13
14 5. The following sections are repealed:
15 Sections 1 and 3 of P.L.1986, c.194 (C.18A:61C-1 and
16 C.18A:61C-3); and
17 Sections 1 through 7 of P.L.1986, c.193 (C.18A:61C-4 through
18 C.18A:61C-9).

19
20 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

21
22
23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill provides that within one year of its effective date, all
26 school districts with high schools must enter into a dual enrollment
27 agreement with at least one public institution of higher education.
28 Similarly, within the one-year time frame, all public institutions of
29 higher education must enter into dual enrollment agreements with
30 one or more school districts with a high school. A dual enrollment
31 agreement will delineate information concerning a dual enrollment
32 program pursuant to which instruction is provided to public high
33 school students through courses offered by the institution of higher
34 education, either on its campus or on the high school campus. The
35 credit may be used toward a career certificate or an associate or
36 baccalaureate degree.

37 The bill requires the dual enrollment agreement to include:

- 38 • a description of the courses available to students eligible to
39 participate in the dual enrollment program;
- 40 • a description of the student eligibility requirements for
41 initial and continuing participation in the program, including a
42 provision that ensures that an eligible student is not excluded
43 from participation because of an inability to pay;
- 44 • a description of the process by which students and their
45 parents or guardians exercise the option to participate in the
46 program;

- 1 • a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment courses taught
- 2 on the high school campus are equivalent in rigor to courses
- 3 taught on the campus of the institution of higher education;
- 4 • a description of the process by which students and their
- 5 parents or guardians are informed about opportunities for student
- 6 participation in the program; and
- 7 • any other items deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of
- 8 Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

9 The bill specifies that a public institution of higher education is
10 required to accept the course credit of a student who successfully
11 completes a course under the dual enrollment program.

12 Under the provisions of the bill a joint report will be submitted
13 annually by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of
14 Higher Education to the Governor and to the Legislature on dual
15 enrollment programs in the State. The report will include:
16 information related to the utilization of dual enrollment programs
17 throughout the State, including information specific to the income-
18 level and location within the State of participating students; the
19 effect dual enrollment programs have on reducing the average time-
20 to-degree completion and increasing the likelihood of college
21 graduation for participating students; an analysis of the rigor of the
22 courses taken pursuant to the dual enrollment program; and
23 recommendations for and suggested changes to the dual enrollment
24 program.

25 The bill repeals two dual enrollment programs which did not
26 require the participation of institutions of higher education. This
27 bill seeks to increase the availability of dual enrollment courses for
28 public high school students by requiring the participation of all
29 school districts and all public institutions of higher education, both
30 four-year and two-year, in dual enrollment programs.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3338

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2014

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3338 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill provides that a school district with a high school may enter into a dual enrollment agreement with at least one public institution of higher education. The bill also provides that all public institutions of higher education must enter into dual enrollment agreements with one or more school districts with a high school. A dual enrollment agreement will delineate information concerning a dual enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to public high school students through courses offered by the institution of higher education, either on its campus or on the high school campus. The credit may be used toward a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

The bill requires the dual enrollment agreement to include:

- a description of the courses available to students eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program;
- a description of the student eligibility requirements for initial and continuing participation in the program, including a provision that ensures that an eligible student is not excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;
- a description of the process by which students and their parents or guardians exercise the option to participate in the program;
- a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment courses taught on the high school campus are equivalent in rigor to courses taught on the campus of the institution of higher education;
- a description of the process by which students and their parents or guardians are informed about opportunities for student participation in the program; and
- any other items deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

The bill specifies that a public institution of higher education is required to accept the course credit of a student who successfully completes a course under the dual enrollment program.

Under the provisions of the bill a joint report will be submitted annually by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education to the Governor and to the Legislature on dual enrollment programs in the State. The report will include: information related to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State, including information specific to the income-level and location within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for and suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.

The bill repeals two dual enrollment programs which did not require the participation of institutions of higher education. This bill seeks to increase the availability of dual enrollment courses for public high school students by requiring the participation of all public institutions of higher education, both four-year and two-year, in dual enrollment programs.

The committee amended the bill to make it permissive on the part of school districts to enter into dual enrollment agreements and to make the bill's provisions effective in the 2015-2016 school year.

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3338

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman PRIETO)

ADOPTED: JUNE 23, 2014

This floor amendment would exempt a State college which generally limits enrollment in its undergraduate programs to persons who are at least 21 years of age from the requirement that a public institution of higher education enter into a dual enrollment agreement with one or more school districts with a high school. This exemption would apply to Thomas Edison State College and is necessary in light of the unique nature of the college's educational program.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 3338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3338 (2R).

This bill provides that a school district with a high school may enter into a dual enrollment agreement with at least one public institution of higher education. The bill also provides that all public institutions of higher education other than Thomas Edison State College must enter into dual enrollment agreements with one or more school districts with a high school. A dual enrollment agreement will delineate information concerning a dual enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to public high school students through courses offered by the institution of higher education, either on its campus or on the high school campus. The credit may be used toward a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

The bill requires the dual enrollment agreement to include:

- a description of the courses available to students eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program;
- a description of the student eligibility requirements for initial and continuing participation in the program, including a provision that ensures that an eligible student is not excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;
- a description of the process by which students and their parents or guardians exercise the option to participate in the program;
- a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment courses taught on the high school campus are equivalent in rigor to courses taught on the campus of the institution of higher education;
- a description of the process by which students and their parents or guardians are informed about opportunities for student participation in the program; and
- any other items deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

The bill specifies that a public institution of higher education is required to accept the course credit of a student who successfully completes a course under the dual enrollment program.

Under the provisions of the bill a joint report will be submitted annually by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of

Higher Education to the Governor and to the Legislature on dual enrollment programs in the State. The report will include: information related to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State, including information specific to the income-level and location within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for and suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.

The bill repeals two dual enrollment programs which did not require the participation of institutions of higher education. This bill seeks to increase the availability of dual enrollment courses for public high school students by requiring the participation of all public institutions of higher education, both four-year and two-year, in dual enrollment programs.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2226 with committee amendments, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

SENATE, No. 2226

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Turner, Allen and Doherty

SYNOPSIS

Requires all school districts and public colleges to enter into dual enrollment agreements to provide college-level instruction to high school students through courses offered on college or high school campus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/19/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning dual enrollment programs, supplementing
2 chapter 61C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and
3 repealing P.L.1986, c.193 and P.L.1986, c.194.

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

7
8 1. a. Within one year of the effective date of this act, a school
9 district with a high school shall enter into a dual enrollment
10 agreement with one or more public institutions of higher education.

11 b. Within one year of the effective date of this act, a public
12 institution of higher education shall enter into a dual enrollment
13 agreement with one or more school districts with a high school.

14 c. A dual enrollment agreement between a public institution of
15 higher education and a school district shall delineate the dual
16 enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to
17 high school students through courses offered by the institution of
18 higher education on its campus or on the campus of the public high
19 school for college credit or credit toward a career certificate.

20 d. The dual enrollment agreement shall include:

21 (1) a description of the courses available to students eligible to
22 participate in the dual enrollment program;

23 (2) a description of the student eligibility requirements for initial
24 and continuing participation in the dual enrollment program, which
25 shall include a provision that ensures that an eligible student is not
26 excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;

27 (3) a description of the process by which a student and his
28 parent or guardian exercise the option to participate in the dual
29 enrollment program;

30 (4) a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment course taught
31 on the high school campus is equivalent in rigor to courses taught
32 on the campus of the institution of higher education;

33 (5) a description of the process by which a student and his
34 parent or guardian are informed about opportunities for student
35 participation in the dual enrollment program; and

36 (6) such other items as deemed appropriate by the
37 Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

38
39 2. A public institution of higher education shall accept the
40 course credit of a student who successfully completes a course
41 under the dual enrollment program.

42
43 3. The Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher
44 Education shall submit annually a joint report to the Governor and
45 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
46 (C.52:14-19.1), on dual enrollment programs in the State. The
47 report shall include, but need not be limited to: information related
48 to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State,

1 including information specific to the income-level and location
2 within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment
3 programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion
4 and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating
5 students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to
6 the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for any
7 suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.

8
9 4. The State Board of Education and the Secretary of Higher
10 Education each shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative
11 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
12 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

13
14 5. The following sections are repealed:
15 Sections 1 and 3 of P.L.1986, c.194 (C.18A:61C-1 and
16 C.18A:61C-3); and
17 Sections 1 through 7 of P.L.1986, c.193 (C.18A:61C-4 through
18 C.18A:61C-9).

19
20 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

21
22
23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill provides that within one year of its effective date, all
26 school districts with high schools must enter into a dual enrollment
27 agreement with at least one public institution of higher education.
28 Similarly, within the one-year time frame, all public institutions of
29 higher education must enter into dual enrollment agreements with
30 one or more school districts with a high school. A dual enrollment
31 agreement will delineate information concerning a dual enrollment
32 program pursuant to which instruction is provided to public high
33 school students through courses offered by the institution of higher
34 education, either on its campus or on the high school campus. The
35 credit may be used toward a career certificate or an associate or
36 baccalaureate degree.

37 The bill requires the dual enrollment agreement to include:

- 38 • a description of the courses available to students eligible to
39 participate in the dual enrollment program;
40 • a description of the student eligibility requirements for
41 initial and continuing participation in the program, including a
42 provision that ensures that an eligible student is not excluded
43 from participation because of an inability to pay;
44 • a description of the process by which students and their
45 parents or guardians exercise the option to participate in the
46 program;

- 1 • a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment courses taught
 - 2 on the high school campus are equivalent in rigor to courses
 - 3 taught on the campus of the institution of higher education;
 - 4 • a description of the process by which students and their
 - 5 parents or guardians are informed about opportunities for student
 - 6 participation in the program; and
 - 7 • any other items deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of
 - 8 Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.
- 9 The bill specifies that a public institution of higher education is
- 10 required to accept the course credit of a student who successfully
- 11 completes a course under the dual enrollment program.
- 12 Under the provisions of the bill a joint report will be submitted
- 13 annually by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of
- 14 Higher Education to the Governor and to the Legislature on dual
- 15 enrollment programs in the State. The report will include:
- 16 information related to the utilization of dual enrollment programs
- 17 throughout the State, including information specific to the income-
- 18 level and location within the State of participating students; the
- 19 effect dual enrollment programs have on reducing the average time-
- 20 to-degree completion and increasing the likelihood of college
- 21 graduation for participating students; an analysis of the rigor of the
- 22 courses taken pursuant to the dual enrollment program; and
- 23 recommendations for and suggested changes to the dual enrollment
- 24 program.
- 25 The bill repeals two dual enrollment programs which did not
- 26 require the participation of institutions of higher education. This
- 27 bill seeks to increase the availability of dual enrollment courses for
- 28 public high school students by requiring the participation of all
- 29 school districts and all public institutions of higher education, both
- 30 four-year and two-year, in dual enrollment programs.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2226

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2226 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill provides that a school district with a high school may enter into a dual enrollment agreement with at least one public institution of higher education. The bill also provides that all public institutions of higher education, other than Thomas Edison State College, must enter into dual enrollment agreements with one or more school districts with a high school. A dual enrollment agreement will delineate information concerning a dual enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to public high school students through courses offered by the institution of higher education, either on its campus or on the high school campus. The credit may be used toward a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

The bill requires the dual enrollment agreement to include:

- a description of the courses available to students eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program;
- a description of the student eligibility requirements for initial and continuing participation in the program, including a provision that ensures that an eligible student is not excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;
- a description of the process by which students and their parents or guardians exercise the option to participate in the program;
- a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment courses taught on the high school campus are equivalent in rigor to courses taught on the campus of the institution of higher education;
- a description of the process by which students and their parents or guardians are informed about opportunities for student participation in the program; and
- any other items deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

The bill specifies that a public institution of higher education is required to accept the course credit of a student who successfully completes a course under the dual enrollment program.

Under the provisions of the bill a joint report will be submitted annually by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education to the Governor and to the Legislature on dual enrollment programs in the State. The report will include: information related to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State, including information specific to the income-level and location within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for and suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.

The bill repeals two dual enrollment programs which did not require the participation of institutions of higher education. This bill seeks to increase the availability of dual enrollment courses for public high school students by requiring the participation of all public institutions of higher education, both four-year and two-year, in dual enrollment programs.

The committee amended the bill to make it permissive on the part of school districts to enter into dual enrollment agreements and to make the bill's provisions effective in the 2015-2016 school year. The amendments also exempt Thomas Edison State College from the requirement that a public institution of higher education enter into a dual enrollment agreement with one or more school districts with a high school. This exemption is necessary in light of the unique nature of the college's educational program.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3338 (2R), which also was reported by the committee on this same date.