

18A:6-92 to 18A:6-94

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

HJSA 18A:6-92 to 18A6-94 ( Educational Improvement Centers.)

LAWS OF 1977 CHAPTER 120

Bill No. S977

Sponsor(s) Wiley

Date Introduced January 26, 1976

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Education

Amended during passage Yes ~~xxx~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly November 22, 1976

Senate June 24, 1976

Date of approval June 3, 1977

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	<del>xxx</del>	No
Committee Statement: Assembly	<del>xxx</del>	No
Senate	Yes	<del>xxx</del>
Fiscal Note	Yes	<del>xxx</del>
Veto Message	<del>xxx</del>	No
Message on signing	Yes	<del>xxx</del>

Following were printed:

Reports	<del>xxx</del>	No
Hearings	<del>xxx</del>	No

For Background See attached Article From "Interact"-  
Vol. 3, No. 8 p. 8-9 (March, 1977)

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**SENATE, No. 977**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 26, 1976

By Senator WILEY

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT to provide for the establishing of Educational Improvement Centers and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1 1. The *commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of*  
2 *Education shall establish and maintain \*not more than four\**  
3 *regional Educational Improvement Centers under the supervision*  
4 *of the State Department of Education, prescribe the boundaries*  
5 *of the regions to be served by the centers, and promulgate such*  
6 *rules and regulations as are necessary for the operation of the*  
7 *centers. Such rules shall provide for an advisory planning council*  
8 *comprised of representatives from school districts and other ap-*  
9 *propriate agencies within the affected region.*

1 2. The *centers \*on request\* shall provide research and develop-*  
2 *ment support to the county offices of the department of education,*  
3 *to the local school districts, and to teaching staff members. Such*  
4 *support shall include technical assistance, inservice education work-*  
5 *shops, demonstrations, and such other functions as may be pre-*  
6 *scribed by the commissioner.*

1 3. Each *center shall constitute a local education agency (L.E.A.)*  
2 *for the purpose of preparation and submission of proposals to*  
3 *secure funding from the Federal Government or other sources.*

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

REFERENCE USE ONLY

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 977

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 18, 1976

PROVISIONS:

Senate Bill No. 977 authorizes the creation of not more than four intermediate "service" units within the Department of Education.

PROBLEMS ADDRESSED:

The Educational Improvement Centers were created, first, to meet the need to attract Federal development services for local districts, especially small and medium sized units. Before the creation of EIC's, almost all such Federal money went to large districts which had a staff specialized and skilled enough to compete successfully in the federal grant process. The EIC's permit the attraction of Federal funds for use on a regional basis; each district therefore does not have to itself provide the overhead necessary to acquire and maintain such services on a long-term basis for its schools. The size of the region served by each EIC is related to the geographical area involved and the number of schools in the area. Currently there are two Educational Improvement Centers operating in the State under the administrative jurisdiction of two local school districts, Margate in the south and Parsippany-Troy Hills in the northwest. Two more will open to serve the northeast and the central regions of the State. It is the judgment of the Senate Education Committee that although the experience of the South Jersey unit demonstrates that a basic regional unit can consist of a resource/media center and a highly skilled and specialized staff of seven or eight persons, to duplicate such a unit in 21 different counties would be a highly inefficient use of scarce resources.

With the passage of Chapter 212, the EIC became valuable, in addition, because an intermediate unit was needed to help school districts in their planning, program development and evaluation process. It is the judgment of the committee that these services must be provided on a voluntary basis and should be requested by the districts because of their confidence in the intermediate unit. The EIC's can meet these requirements, but the other available intermediate unit, the county superintendents' offices, cannot. If the county superin-

tendent's office, which is responsible for enforcement of chapter 212, is at the same time responsible for giving aid and assistance to local districts, the committee fears that a subtle but inevitable eroding of local self-determination would ensue.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Department of Education has requested \$768,000.00 for the operation of the Educational Improvement Centers (EICs) in fiscal '77. Of this amount \$297,000.00 has been requested for continuation of the Educational Improvement Center in South Jersey. This request represents a 10% inflationary increase factor over the amount expended for EIC South in fiscal '76. The remaining \$471,000.00 for fiscal '77 represents an increase over the fiscal '76 appropriation and was intended to be used in the following manner:

(1) Of the additional request, \$90,000.00 has been requested for directors' salaries and \$84,000.00 has been requested for the salaries of assistant directors in the new installations in the northeast and central regions of the State, as well as for the director and assistant director at EIC Northwest. (Federal funds will be used for operations during the first 3 years in the new installations.) It has been the policy of the Department of Education to use State money for such administrative positions only when the Federal grant money expires. However, it is the judgment of the Department of Education that since the Educational Improvement Centers will be playing a major role in the Statewide T & E process, the administrators of all EIC installations should be directly accountable to the State education agency.

(2) The remaining \$297,000.00 has been requested for EIC Northwest. Currently EIC Northwest is operating on a Federal grant which will expire June 30, 1976. Since the level of operations of any EIC depends upon local school district demand for services, this request is based upon what the department expects to be the demand for services in the Northwest region in fiscal '77.

In contrast to the Department of Education's request, the Governor has recommended a total appropriation for all the EIC's of \$270,000.00 for fiscal '77; this amount is equal to the total appropriation of last year, which was used only for EIC South. The Department of Education's request was based upon the assumption that the Educational Improvement Centers will be called upon to help local school districts install the "T & E" process at the local level, while the Governor's recommendation was not based upon such an assumption.

If the appropriation for the EIC's is limited to the Governor's recommendation, the department presently plans to use the \$270,000.00 in the following manner: the Educational Improvement Center pro-

viding services to schools in the southern region, which has proved to be highly efficient and productive, will receive the total appropriation of \$270,000.00; the Educational Improvement Center serving the Northwest region of the State will be cut back and maintained on a very limited basis; the new installations in northeast and central New Jersey will pay the directors and assistant directors from the Federal grant which was to be used for the operating budget.

The greatest impact of the Governor's recommendation will be felt in the northwest region. The regular staff for EIC Northwest will be replaced by a staff representing a cluster of other separate Federally-funded projects and programs, e.g. the Institute for Political and Legal Education, the Right to Read project, the Gifted Child project, etc. In this way several small projects can be continued and additional Federal money may be secured. The effect of such an arrangement will be to restrict the kind as well as the quantity of services currently available to local districts within the region. However, this was thought to be preferable to closing the installation in the northwest region.

FISCAL NOTE TO  
**SENATE, No. 977**  
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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: APRIL 22, 1976

The Official Copy Reprint of Senate Bill No. 977 is a supplementary act providing for the establishment of Educational Improvement Centers.

The Department of Education estimates that enactment of this legislation would require an additional State expenditure of \$498,000.00 in fiscal 1976-77 and \$556,000.00 in fiscal 1977-78.

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The fiscal note is based on an estimate of cost rather than actual cost information.

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In compliance with written request received, there is hereby submitted a fiscal estimate for the above bill, pursuant to P. L. 1962, c. 27.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

JUNE 3, 1977

BEN BOROWSKY

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed S-977 into law in a public ceremony held this morning in Pitman.

The legislation, sponsored by Senator Stephen B. Wiley D-Morris, authorizes the operation of four regional educational improvement centers under the supervision of the Department of Education.

These centers are to provide research and development support to local educators and school districts and to the county offices of education.

The support services will include technical assistance, inservice workshops, demonstrations and other functions that may be prescribed by the Commissioner.

The four regional centers, authorized in the bill, have already been created through Federal grants.

"The performance records of the established centers," Governor Byrne said, "make an impressive case for the potential of the educational improvement center concept."

Today's signing took place at the Education Improvement Center of South Jersey in Pitman.

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