

18A:7A-2 ET AL.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 18A:7A-2 et al. (Minimum performance standards)

Laws of 1976 Chapter 97

Bill No. A1736

Sponsor(s) Kean & 17 others

Date Introduced March 3, 1976

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Education

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of passage: Assembly March 15, 1976

Senate May 24, 1976

Date of approval Sept. 22, 1976

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~No~~

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~No~~

Senate Yes ~~No~~

Fiscal Note Yes ~~No~~

Veto message Yes ~~No~~

Message on signing Yes ~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports Yes ~~No~~

Hearings Yes ~~No~~

974.90 N.J. Legislature. Joint Education Committee.
E24 Report of the Joint Education Committee to the New
1974b Jersey Legislature. June 13, 1974.

Recommendations made were incorporated in the bill.
(over)

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974.90 New Jersey. Task Force on Competency Indicators and
E24 Standards.
1976s Final report. October 1976.

974.90 New Jersey. Task Force on Competency Indicators and
E24 Standards.
1976 z/c Summary report. Oct. 1976.

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ASSEMBLY, No. 1736

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1976

By Assemblymen KEAN, MARKERT, Assemblywoman BURGIO,
Assemblymen ALBANESE, SNEDEKER, BARRY, RYS,
VILLANE, MAGUIRE, FORAN, WEIDEL, ORECHIO,
DiFRANCESCO, EWING, HURLEY, Assemblywoman MUHLER,
Assemblymen DORSEY and KUPPERMAN

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the "Public School Education Act of 1975,"
approved September 30, 1975 (P. L. 1975, c. 212).

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

1 1. Section 2 of P. L. 1975, c. 212 (C. 18A:17A-2) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 2. a. The Legislature finds and declares that:

4 (1) The New Jersey Constitution provides that the maintenance
5 and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools
6 for the instruction of all the children in the State between the ages
7 of 5 and 18 years is a legislative responsibility;

8 (2) It has been determined by the Supreme Court of New Jersey
9 that the constitutional requirement has not been met and that action
10 must be taken to correct any deficiencies;

11 (3) Extensive efforts have been made by the Executive and
12 Legislative branches of State Government and others since the
13 Supreme Court's decision to determine the content of a thorough
14 and efficient system of education and how it may be assured;

15 (4) Because the sufficiency of education is a growing and evolv-
16 ing concept, the definition of a thorough and efficient system of
17 education and the delineation of all the factors necessary to be in-
18 cluded therein, depend upon the economic, historical, social and
19 cultural context in which that education is delivered. The Legisla-
20 ture must, nevertheless, make explicit provision for the design of
21 State and local systems by which such education is delivered, and

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

1 4. Section 11 of P. L. 1975, c. 212 (C. 18A:17A-11) is amended to
2 read as follows:

20 g. Recommendations for school improvements during the ensu-
21 ing year.

22 h. Additionally, the State Board of Education may from time to
23 time require each district to submit a facilities survey, including
24 current use practices and projected capital project needs, but not
25 more frequently than once every 2 years.

26 The district reports shall be submitted to the commissioner by
27 July 1 of each year and he shall make them the basis for an annual
28 report to the Governor and the Legislature, describing the condi-
29 tion of education in New Jersey, the efforts of New Jersey schools
30 in meeting the standards of a thorough and efficient education, the
31 steps underway to correct deficiencies in school performance, and
32 the progress of New Jersey schools in comparison to other state
33 education systems in the United States.

1 5. Section 14 of P. L. 1975, c. 212 (C. 18A:17A-14) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 14. The commissioner shall review the results of the evaluations
4 conducted and reports submitted pursuant to sections 10 and 11 of
5 this act. If the commissioner shall find that a school or a school
6 district has failed to show sufficient progress toward the goals,
7 guidelines, objectives and standards, *including State and local*
8 *minimum levels of pupil proficiency in basic communications and*
9 *computational skills*, established in and pursuant to this act, he
10 shall advise the local board of education of such determination,
11 and shall direct that a remedial plan be prepared and submitted
12 to him for approval. If the commissioner approves the plan, he
13 shall assure its implementation in a timely and effective manner.
14 If the commissioner finds that the remedial plan prepared by the
15 local board of education is insufficient, he shall order the local
16 board to show cause why the corrective actions provided in section
17 15 of this act should not be utilized. The hearing upon said order
18 to show cause shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by sub-
19 division B of article 2 of chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
20 Statutes.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

It is the purpose of this bill to clarify the need for minimum Statewide standards regarding a "thorough and efficient" education. The bill provides that these minimum standards include basic communication skills as well as arithmetical skills.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 22, 1976

KATHY FORSYTH

Governor Brendan Byrne Wednesday called for the State Board of Education to establish statewide minimum performance standards for high school graduation.

The Governor made the proposal at the DeWitt D. Barlow School in Plainfield, where he signed into law A-1736, which requires the State Board of Education to set minimum performance standards in basic skills for school students.

The Governor said he was confident that effective performance standards for public school students can be set and implemented without delay, but "there is another important step that will remain to be taken."

"I believe that we must restore meaning to the high school diploma," he said. "Society has a right to know just what that diploma means in terms of the basic skills of those to whom it is granted

"We owe this to the high school graduate, we owe it to the parents, we owe it to potential employers, and we owe it to the taxpayers who bear the cost of our schools," he said.

The Governor suggested that the State Board of Education establish minimum standards and publish them this year, but that they not become effective until 1981.

"This procedure will give our school districts five years to improve their programs and enable the students to have a reasonable expectation of achieving the standards," he said.

He said the state "must not penalize students who are now nearing graduation and whose schools have failed them in one way or another. They have been penalized enough."

"The public is no longer uncritical in its support of public education," the Governor said. "People are unwilling to accept assurances of its effectiveness and success."

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"They demand an accurate accounting of the public schools. A-1736, the bill I am signing today, and my proposal for minimum standards for high school graduation are two important efforts to respond to that need," he said.

Under the provisions of A-1736, local boards of education are required to establish interim goals and annual basic skills improvement plans wherever there are students who are not performing up to the basic level of proficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic.

The local plans will be evaluated annually by the Commissioner of Education to assure reasonable progress towards the statewide standards. In the event that the Commissioner finds a district has failed to show sufficient progress, he will direct that a remedial plan be prepared and submitted to him for approval.

The Commissioner will prepare a report of the effectiveness of the program to be submitted in September, 1980, to the Governor and the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Schools:

The Governor said he was signing the legislation in Plainfield "because the schools of this city are typical of those in progressive districts across the state that are working hard and effectively to improve the educational lives of their children."

He said that although the Plainfield pupil population was diverse and there were some problems, the city "is well on its way to complying with the requirements of the new legislation to set goals for improvement, plan programs to meet them and to measure progress in that effort."
