

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 52:9R-1 to 5 (Joint Committee on the Public Schools)

Laws of 1975 Chapter 16

Bill No. S 1437

Sponsor(s) Wiley & others

Date Introduced October 21, 1974

Committee: Assembly -----

Senate -----

Amended during passage No

Date of passage: Assembly Feb. 10, 1975

Senate Nov. 21, 1974

Date of approval Feb. 24, 1975

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly No

Senate No

Fiscal Note Yes

Veto message No

Message on signing No

Following were printed:

Reports No

Hearings No

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SENATE, No. 1437

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 1974

By Senators WILEY, MARTINDELL, SCARDINO, DUMONT,
BUEHLER, FELDMAN and BATEMAN

(Without Reference)

AN ACT creating a Joint Committee on the Public Schools to monitor the system of free public schools in New Jersey, and repealing P. L. 1970, c. 233 (C. 52:9N-1 et seq.).

1 WHEREAS, The New Jersey Constitution provides that the main-
2 tenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free
3 public schools for the instruction of all children in the State
4 between the ages of 5 and 18 years is a legislative responsibility;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee established pursuant
7 to P. L. 1974, c. 14, has reported to the Legislature and has
8 identified issues of educational funding and policy which warrant
9 further study and possible legislative action; and

10 WHEREAS, The sufficiency of education is a growing and evolving
11 concept; now, therefore

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

1 1. There is hereby created a committee to be known as the
2 "Joint Committee on the Public Schools." The committee shall
3 consist of seven members of the Senate, including five members
4 of the Senate Education Committee, to be appointed by the Presi-
5 dent of the Senate and seven members of the Assembly, including
6 five members of the Assembly Education Committee, to be ap-
7 pointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. No more than
8 four of the members from each House shall be of the same political
9 party. All members shall serve without compensation and vacancies
10 in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same
11 manner as the original appointments are made.

1 2. The committee shall select a chairman and vice chairman
2 from among its members and a secretary who need not be a member
3 of the committee.

1 3. The committee is authorized, empowered and directed to
2 conduct a continuing study of the system of free public schools,
3 its financing, administration, and operations, and to make recom-
4 mendations for legislative action as it deems practicable and
5 desirable for the maintenance and support of a thorough and
6 efficient system of free public schools.

1 4. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
2 avail itself of the services of the employees of the Law Revision
3 and Legislative Services Commission, as well as employees of any
4 other State, county or municipal department, board, bureau, com-
5 mission or agency as it may require and as may be available to it
6 for said purpose, and to employ such professional, stenographic
7 and clerical assistants and incur such traveling and other mis-
8 cellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to perform
9 its duties, and as may be within the limits of funds appropriated
10 or otherwise made available to it for said purposes. The committee
11 shall have all the powers of a joint committee of the Legislature
12 under the provisions of chapter 13 of Title 52 of the Revised
13 Statutes.

1 5. The committee may meet and hold hearings at such place or
2 places as it shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the
3 Legislature and shall make an annual report of its findings and
4 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, and may
5 make other reports or recommendations as it deems necessary or
6 desirable.

1 6. Funds appropriated pursuant to P. L. 1974, c. 14 and not
2 spent shall be made available for the purposes of the joint com-
3 mittee. Any obligations of the Joint Legislative Committee estab-
4 lished pursuant to P. L. 1974, c. 14, still outstanding as of December
5 31, 1974, shall be paid by the committee from such funds.

1 7. P. L. 1970, c. 233 (C. 52:9N-1 et seq.) is hereby repealed.

1 8. This act shall take effect December 31, 1974.

STATEMENT

This bill would create the Joint Committee on the Public Schools to oversee the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools. In addition, the committee would continue work initiated by the Joint Legislative Committee established pursuant to P. L. 1974, c. 14, by giving further attention to questions such as the treatment of capital and debt service costs, the improvement of business efficiency in the school districts, and the problems of providing special education.

The new legislative committee will be able to avail itself of the services of the professional staff of the Legislative Services Agency, thus ensuring adequate staff to perform the duties involved in overseeing the public schools.

The Joint Committee on the Public Schools will consist solely of legislators. There are two reasons for constituting the committee in this way. First, the New Jersey Constitution places the ultimate responsibility for public education on the Legislature. Second, as the elected representatives of the people, it is the legislators' duty to consider the views of their constituents in an open and responsive manner. The new committee will also continue to directly solicit the views of the public and the education community through public meetings, hearings, etc.

The formation of this committee, as a legislative body, demonstrates the Legislature's commitment to an ongoing effort to provide a thorough and efficient system of education for all children in the State.

Section 7 repeals P. L. 1972, c. 234, which created the Permanent Commission on State School Support.

FISCAL NOTE TO
SENATE, No. 1437

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 7, 1975

Senate Bill No. 1437 creates a Joint Committee on the Public Schools to oversee the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools.

The Joint Legislative Committee, established pursuant to P. L. 1974, c. 14, was appropriated \$50,000.00 and there was an unexpended balance in that committee of \$30,000.00 at its expiration. This balance is to be made available to the committee established by Senate Bill No. 1437.

Considering that this committee will be able to avail itself of the services of the professional staff of the Legislative Services Agency, the Office of Fiscal Affairs estimates that the available \$30,000.00, expended over a 3-year period at about \$10,000.00 per year, would be sufficient to meet the financial needs of this committee.

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

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