

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

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

"Murphy signs bill strengthening African American history curricula - Murphy signs bill strengthening Amistad Commission,"
The Press of Atlantic City (NJ), January 9, 2021: 2A.

RWH

SENATE, No. 1028

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Allocates Amistad Commission in but not of DOE; requires commission to elect chairperson and appoint executive director; requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to American society.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the Amistad Commission, amending
2 P.L.2002, c.75, and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-87) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. The Amistad Commission, so named in honor of the
11 group of enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque who, while being
12 transported in 1839 on a vessel named the Amistad, gained their
13 freedom after overthrowing the crew and eventually having their
14 case successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, is
15 created and established in the Executive Branch of the State
16 Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of
17 Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
18 the commission is allocated **【within the Department of State】** in but
19 not of the Department of Education, but notwithstanding this
20 allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision
21 or control by the department or any board or officer thereof. State
22 support for the operations of the Amistad Commission shall be
23 appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a
24 separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

25 The commission shall consist of **【23】** 22 members, including
26 **【the Secretary of State or a designee,】** the Commissioner of
27 Education or a designee , who shall serve as a voting member, and
28 the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council or a
29 designee, serving ex officio, two members of the Senate or their
30 designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political
31 party, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as **【non-**
32 **voting】** voting members for the two-year legislative term during
33 which they are appointed, two members of the General Assembly or
34 their designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same
35 political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
36 to serve as **【non-voting】** voting members for the two-year
37 legislative term during which they are appointed, and 16 public
38 members.

39 Public members , all of whom shall serve as voting members,
40 shall be appointed as follows: four public members, no more than
41 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
42 by the President of the Senate; four public members, no more than
43 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
44 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and eight public members,
45 no more than four of whom shall be of the same political party,

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.

1 shall be appointed by the Governor. The public members shall be
2 residents of this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic
3 representation and racial and ethnic diversity, who have an interest
4 in the history of the African slave trade and slavery in America and
5 the accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-
6 Americans to our society.

7 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a
8 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:
9 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
10 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two
11 members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one
12 year; one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one
13 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and
14 three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of
15 two years; and two members appointed by the President of the
16 Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General
17 Assembly, and three members appointed by the Governor shall
18 serve for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for
19 reappointment. They shall serve until their successors are appointed
20 and qualified, and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall
21 be calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A
22 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in
23 the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired
24 term only.

25 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
26 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
27 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

28 d. The **【**Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as the
29 chair and the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, shall serve
30 as the vice-chair of the**】** commission shall annually elect a
31 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members. The
32 commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or of a
33 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority
34 of the authorized voting membership of the commission shall be
35 required for the conduct of official business.

36 e. **【**The New Jersey Historical Commission shall serve as staff
37 for the Amistad Commission. The New Jersey Historical
38 Commission may, subject to the availability of appropriations, hire
39 additional staff and consultants to carry out the duties and
40 responsibilities of the Amistad Commission.**】** The commission
41 shall interview and appoint an executive director, who shall serve at
42 its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training and
43 experience to perform the duties of the office. The commission
44 shall approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all persons
45 recommended for employment by its executive director. The
46 Department of Education shall provide any additional staff that the
47 Amistad Commission might deem necessary.

1 f. The **【Department of Education】** Amistad Commission shall:

2 (1) **【assist the Amistad Commission in marketing and**
3 **distributing】** market and distribute to educators, administrators and
4 school districts in the State educational information and other
5 materials on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the
6 vestiges of slavery in this country and the contributions of African-
7 Americans to our society;

8 (2) conduct **【at least one】** teacher **【workshop】** workshops
9 annually on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges
10 of slavery in this country and the accomplishments, experiences,
11 and contributions of African-Americans to our society, covering
12 information which often has been omitted from traditional
13 curricula;

14 (3) **【assist the Amistad Commission in monitoring】** monitor and
15 assess the inclusion of such materials and curricula in the State's
16 educational system; and

17 (4) **【consult with the Amistad Commission to determine ways it**
18 **may】** survey, catalog, and **【extend】** recommend to the State Board
19 of Education the expansion of, content about slave trade **【and】** ,
20 American slavery education , and African-American history
21 presently being incorporated into the **【Core Curriculum Content**
22 **Standards】** New Jersey Student Learning Standards and taught in
23 the State's educational system , the purpose of which is to ensure
24 that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep knowledge of
25 all people who contributed to the founding and development of New
26 Jersey and the United States and to promote the self-esteem,
27 confidence, and identity of students who previously may not have
28 learned about past and living examples of people of their own
29 cultural identity who have had positive impacts upon the American
30 story.

31 (cf: P.L.2004, c.94, s.1)

32

33 2. (New section) As used in P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-
34 86 et seq.) and P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
35 this bill), "African American" means all people of African descent
36 in the United States.

37

38 3. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

39 a. Since the days of slavery, public school curricula have
40 consistently omitted or misrepresented the history of African
41 Americans.

42 b. To correct these omissions, all public schools in the State of
43 New Jersey should include instruction that infuses into all courses
44 on the United States, the centuries of contributions and
45 accomplishments by African Americans in the building and
46 development of America.

1 c. The Amistad Commission, created pursuant to P.L.2002,
2 c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.), is responsible for designing and
3 promoting the implementation of education and awareness
4 programs in New Jersey concerned with slavery in America and the
5 contributions of African Americans, and for developing curriculum
6 guidelines for the teaching of this information. The Amistad
7 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
8 to school districts.

9
10 4. (New section) a. Every board of education shall include,
11 in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students,
12 instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the
13 centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building
14 and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas
15 of industry, military, government, and the professions; local
16 communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and
17 the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in
18 America.

19 b. The instruction shall enable students to identify and analyze
20 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to know
21 and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom; to
22 know and understand the impact of African diasporic cultures and
23 institutions on the Americas; to know and understand the
24 contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society
25 throughout its history, beginning with the colonial period; to know
26 and understand that inequality is a consequence of prejudice and
27 discrimination in the pursuit of maintaining power and dominance
28 over certain portions of society; to know and understand citizenship
29 and disenfranchisement; and to understand that issues of moral
30 dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on the nation and
31 the self-image and self-realization of its entire population,
32 especially the personal and civic development of students in grades
33 kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall also emphasize the
34 personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred
35 whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the national ideals
36 of freedom and justice for all.

37 c. The Department of Education shall work with the Amistad
38 Commission to ensure that all department assessment tools for New
39 Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements
40 established pursuant to this section.

41
42 5. This act shall take effect immediately.
43
44

45 STATEMENT

46
47 The Amistad Commission was created by P.L.2002, c.75
48 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.) in order to coordinate educational and other

1 programs on slavery in America and African-American history.
2 Under the original statute, the Amistad Commission was established
3 in the Executive Branch and allocated within the Department of
4 State. The Amistad law, among other things, directs the
5 Department of Education to assist the commission in developing
6 curriculum guidelines regarding slavery and African-American
7 history, distributing educational information and materials to school
8 districts, and monitoring the inclusion of the materials and curricula
9 in the State's educational system. In June 2011, Governor Chris
10 Christie issued Reorganization Plan No. 004-2011 to transfer the
11 Amistad Commission from the Department of State to the
12 Department of Education in order to improve efficiency and quality
13 in the performance of the commission's responsibilities.

14 This bill amends the statute that created the Amistad
15 Commission to provide that the commission is allocated in but not
16 of the Department of Education, rather than within the Department
17 of State. Notwithstanding this allocation, the commission will be
18 independent of any supervision or control by the department. The
19 bill also provides that State support for the operations of the
20 Amistad Commission will be appropriated by the Legislature to the
21 commission through a separate line item in the annual
22 appropriations act.

23 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will serve as a
24 voting member of the commission, and the Secretary of State will
25 no longer be a member of the commission. The bill directs the
26 commission to annually elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson
27 from among its members, and provides that the commission will
28 meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members.
29 The bill requires the commission to appoint an executive director
30 who is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of
31 the office. The bill requires the commission to approve all Amistad
32 personnel job descriptions and all individuals recommended for
33 employment by the commission's executive director. The bill
34 directs the Department of Education to provide any additional staff
35 deemed necessary by the commission.

36 It is the legislation's intent that these changes to the Amistad law
37 will permit the Amistad Commission to maintain its independence
38 and ensure that the resources of the Department of Education are
39 made available for the implementation of the law and the Amistad
40 Commission's mission.

41 In addition, the bill would supplement existing law to require all
42 boards of education to include instruction that infuses into all
43 courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by
44 African Americans in the building and development of America
45 including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, the professions,
46 local communities, culture, arts, and the sciences. The instruction
47 must enable students to know and understand the nation's heritage
48 of slavery and freedom and the contributions of African Americans

S1028 RUIZ, TURNER

7

1 to all areas of American society throughout history. The instruction
2 must also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to
3 fight racism and hatred and to uphold the national ideals of freedom
4 and justice. The bill directs the Department of Education to work
5 with the Amistad Commission to ensure that the assessment tools
6 for New Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements
7 established under the bill.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1028

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2020

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1028 with committee amendments.

The Amistad Commission was created by P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.) in order to coordinate educational and other programs on slavery in America and African-American history. Under the original statute, the Amistad Commission was established in the Executive Branch and allocated within the Department of State. In June 2011, Governor Chris Christie issued Reorganization Plan No. 004-2011 to transfer the Amistad Commission from the Department of State to the Department of Education in order to improve efficiency and quality in the performance of the commission's responsibilities.

As amended, this bill amends the statute that created the Amistad Commission to provide that the commission is allocated in but not of the Department of Education, rather than within the Department of State. Notwithstanding this allocation, the commission will be independent of any supervision or control by the department. The bill provides that the executive director of the commission will submit requests for the commission's budget directly to the Governor who will review the requests and forward them to the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. State support for the operations of the Amistad Commission will be appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will serve as a voting member of the commission, and the Secretary of State will no longer be a member of the commission. The bill directs the commission to annually elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, and provides that the commission will meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members. The bill requires the commission to appoint an executive director who is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The bill requires the commission to approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all individuals recommended for employment by the commission's executive director.

In addition, the bill would supplement existing law to require all boards of education to include instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, the professions, local communities, culture, arts, and the sciences. The instruction must enable students to know and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom and the contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society throughout history. The instruction must also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred and to uphold the national ideals of freedom and justice. The bill directs the Department of Education to work with the Amistad Commission to ensure that the assessment tools for New Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements established under the bill.

The committee amended the bill to:

- Provide that the executive director of the commission will submit requests for the commission's budget to the Governor who will forward them to the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury; and
- Delete a provision in the bill that requires the Department of Education to provide any additional staff that the commission deems necessary.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1028

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2020

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1028 (1R).

The Amistad Commission was created by P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.) in order to coordinate educational and other programs on slavery in America and African-American history. Under the original statute, the Amistad Commission was established in the Executive Branch and allocated within the Department of State. In June 2011, Governor Chris Christie issued Reorganization Plan No. 004-2011 to transfer the Amistad Commission from the Department of State to the Department of Education in order to improve efficiency and quality in the performance of the commission's responsibilities.

This bill amends the statute that created the Amistad Commission to provide that the commission is allocated in but not of the Department of Education, rather than within the Department of State. Notwithstanding this allocation, the commission will be independent of any supervision or control by the department. The bill provides that the executive director of the commission will submit requests for the commission's budget directly to the Governor who will review the requests and forward them to the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. State support for the operations of the Amistad Commission will be appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will serve as a voting member of the commission, and the Secretary of State will no longer be a member of the commission. The bill directs the commission to annually elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, and provides that the commission will meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members. The bill requires the commission to appoint an executive director who is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The bill requires the commission to approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all individuals recommended for employment by the commission's executive director.

In addition, the bill would supplement existing law to require all boards of education to include instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, the professions, local communities, culture, arts, and the sciences. The instruction must enable students to know and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom and the contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society throughout history. The instruction must also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred and to uphold the national ideals of freedom and justice. The bill directs the Department of Education to work with the Amistad Commission to ensure that the assessment tools for New Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements established under the bill.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3601, which was amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1028

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senator Greenstein, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Speight,
Lampitt and Downey**

SYNOPSIS

Allocates Amistad Commission in but not of DOE; requires commission to elect chairperson and appoint executive director; requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to American society.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on February 13, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the Amistad Commission, amending
2 P.L.2002, c.75, and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-87) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. The Amistad Commission, so named in honor of the
11 group of enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque who, while being
12 transported in 1839 on a vessel named the Amistad, gained their
13 freedom after overthrowing the crew and eventually having their
14 case successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, is
15 created and established in the Executive Branch of the State
16 Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of
17 Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
18 the commission is allocated **【within the Department of State】** in but
19 not of the Department of Education, but notwithstanding this
20 allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision
21 or control by the department or any board or officer thereof.

22 ¹The executive director of the Amistad Commission shall submit
23 requests for the budget of the Amistad Commission directly to the
24 Governor who shall review the requests and forward them to the
25 Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
26 Treasury.¹ State support for the operations of the Amistad
27 Commission shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the
28 commission through a separate line item in the annual
29 appropriations act.

30 The commission shall consist of **【23】** 22 members, including
31 **【the Secretary of State or a designee,】** the Commissioner of
32 Education or a designee , who shall serve as a voting member, and
33 the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council or a
34 designee, serving ex officio, two members of the Senate or their
35 designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political
36 party, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as **【non-**
37 **voting】** voting members for the two-year legislative term during
38 which they are appointed, two members of the General Assembly or
39 their designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same
40 political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
41 to serve as **【non-voting】** voting members for the two-year
42 legislative term during which they are appointed, and 16 public
43 members.

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted February 13, 2020.

1 Public members , all of whom shall serve as voting members,
2 shall be appointed as follows: four public members, no more than
3 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
4 by the President of the Senate; four public members, no more than
5 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
6 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and eight public members,
7 no more than four of whom shall be of the same political party,
8 shall be appointed by the Governor. The public members shall be
9 residents of this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic
10 representation and racial and ethnic diversity, who have an interest
11 in the history of the African slave trade and slavery in America and
12 the accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-
13 Americans to our society.

14 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a
15 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:
16 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
17 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two
18 members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one
19 year; one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one
20 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and
21 three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of
22 two years; and two members appointed by the President of the
23 Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General
24 Assembly, and three members appointed by the Governor shall
25 serve for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for
26 reappointment. They shall serve until their successors are appointed
27 and qualified, and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall
28 be calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A
29 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in
30 the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired
31 term only.

32 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
33 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
34 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

35 d. The **【**Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as the
36 chair and the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, shall serve
37 as the vice-chair of the**】** commission shall annually elect a
38 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members. The
39 commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or of a
40 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority
41 of the authorized voting membership of the commission shall be
42 required for the conduct of official business.

43 e. **【**The New Jersey Historical Commission shall serve as staff
44 for the Amistad Commission. The New Jersey Historical
45 Commission may, subject to the availability of appropriations, hire
46 additional staff and consultants to carry out the duties and
47 responsibilities of the Amistad Commission.**】** The commission
48 shall interview and appoint an executive director, who shall serve at

1 its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training and
2 experience to perform the duties of the office. The commission
3 shall approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all persons
4 recommended for employment by its executive director. ¹【The
5 Department of Education shall provide any additional staff that the
6 Amistad Commission might deem necessary.】¹

7 f. The **【Department of Education】** Amistad Commission shall:

8 (1) **【assist the Amistad Commission in marketing and**
9 **distributing】** market and distribute to educators, administrators and
10 school districts in the State educational information and other
11 materials on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the
12 vestiges of slavery in this country and the contributions of African-
13 Americans to our society;

14 (2) conduct **【at least one】** teacher **【workshop】** workshops
15 annually on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges
16 of slavery in this country and the accomplishments, experiences,
17 and contributions of African-Americans to our society, covering
18 information which often has been omitted from traditional
19 curricula;

20 (3) **【assist the Amistad Commission in monitoring】** monitor and
21 assess the inclusion of such materials and curricula in the State's
22 educational system; and

23 (4) **【consult with the Amistad Commission to determine ways it**
24 **may】** survey, catalog, and 【extend】 recommend to the State Board
25 of Education the expansion of, content about slave trade 【and】 ,
26 American slavery education , and African-American history
27 presently being incorporated into the 【Core Curriculum Content
28 Standards】 New Jersey Student Learning Standards and taught in
29 the State's educational system , the purpose of which is to ensure
30 that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep knowledge of
31 all people who contributed to the founding and development of New
32 Jersey and the United States and to promote the self-esteem,
33 confidence, and identity of students who previously may not have
34 learned about past and living examples of people of their own
35 cultural identity who have had positive impacts upon the American
36 story.

37 (cf: P.L.2004, c.94, s.1)

38
39 2. (New section) As used in P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-
40 86 et seq.) and P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
41 this bill), "African American" means all people of African descent
42 in the United States.

43
44 3. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

45 a. Since the days of slavery, public school curricula have
46 consistently omitted or misrepresented the history of African
47 Americans.

1 b. To correct these omissions, all public schools in the State of
2 New Jersey should include instruction that infuses into all courses
3 on the United States, the centuries of contributions and
4 accomplishments by African Americans in the building and
5 development of America.

6 c. The Amistad Commission, created pursuant to P.L.2002,
7 c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.), is responsible for designing and
8 promoting the implementation of education and awareness
9 programs in New Jersey concerned with slavery in America and the
10 contributions of African Americans, and for developing curriculum
11 guidelines for the teaching of this information. The Amistad
12 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
13 to school districts.

14

15 4. (New section) a. Every board of education shall include,
16 in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students,
17 instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the
18 centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building
19 and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas
20 of industry, military, government, and the professions; local
21 communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and
22 the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in
23 America.

24 b. The instruction shall enable students to identify and analyze
25 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to know
26 and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom; to
27 know and understand the impact of African diasporic cultures and
28 institutions on the Americas; to know and understand the
29 contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society
30 throughout its history, beginning with the colonial period; to know
31 and understand that inequality is a consequence of prejudice and
32 discrimination in the pursuit of maintaining power and dominance
33 over certain portions of society; to know and understand citizenship
34 and disenfranchisement; and to understand that issues of moral
35 dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on the nation and
36 the self-image and self-realization of its entire population,
37 especially the personal and civic development of students in grades
38 kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall also emphasize the
39 personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred
40 whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the national ideals
41 of freedom and justice for all.

42 c. The Department of Education shall work with the Amistad
43 Commission to ensure that all department assessment tools for New
44 Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements
45 established pursuant to this section.

46

47 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

CHAPTER 153
(CORRECTED COPY)

AN ACT concerning the Amistad Commission, amending P.L.2002, c.75, and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-87) is amended to read as follows:

C.52:16A-87 Amistad Commission, established.

2. a. The Amistad Commission, so named in honor of the group of enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque who, while being transported in 1839 on a vessel named the Amistad, gained their freedom after overthrowing the crew and eventually having their case successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, is created and established in the Executive Branch of the State Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the commission is allocated in but not of the Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by the department or any board or officer thereof.

The executive director of the Amistad Commission shall submit requests for the budget of the Amistad Commission directly to the Governor who shall review the requests and forward them to the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. State support for the operations of the Amistad Commission shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

The commission shall consist of 22 members, including the Commissioner of Education or a designee, who shall serve as a voting member, and the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council or a designee, serving ex officio, two members of the Senate or their designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as voting members for the two-year legislative term during which they are appointed, two members of the General Assembly or their designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly to serve as voting members for the two-year legislative term during which they are appointed, and 16 public members.

Public members, all of whom shall serve as voting members, shall be appointed as follows: four public members, no more than two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; four public members, no more than two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and eight public members, no more than four of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the Governor. The public members shall be residents of this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic representation and racial and ethnic diversity, who have an interest in the history of the African slave trade and slavery in America and the accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-Americans to our society.

- b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed: one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year; one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of two years; and two

members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

c. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

d. The commission shall annually elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members. The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority of the authorized voting membership of the commission shall be required for the conduct of official business.

e. The commission shall interview and appoint an executive director, who shall serve at its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The commission shall approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all persons recommended for employment by its executive director.

f. The Amistad Commission shall:

(1) market and distribute to educators, administrators and school districts in the State educational information and other materials on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country and the contributions of African-Americans to our society;

(2) conduct teacher workshops annually on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country and the accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-Americans to our society, covering information which often has been omitted from traditional curricula;

(3) monitor and assess the inclusion of such materials and curricula in the State's educational system; and

(4) survey, catalog, and recommend to the State Board of Education the expansion of, content about slave trade, American slavery education, and African-American history presently being incorporated into the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and taught in the State's educational system, the purpose of which is to ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and development of New Jersey and the United States and to promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students who previously may not have learned about past and living examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had positive impacts upon the American story.

C.52:16A-86.1 Definition of "African American".

2. As used in P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.) and P.L.2020, c.153 (C.52:16A-86.1 et al.), "African American" means all people of African descent in the United States.

C.18A:35-4.42 Findings, declarations relative to the Amistad Commission.

3. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. Since the days of slavery, public school curricula have consistently omitted or misrepresented the history of African Americans.

b. To correct these omissions, all public schools in the State of New Jersey should include instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of contributions and accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America.

c. The Amistad Commission, created pursuant to P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.), is responsible for designing and promoting the implementation of education and awareness programs in New Jersey concerned with slavery in America and the contributions of African Americans, and for developing curriculum guidelines for the teaching of this information. The Amistad Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials to school districts.

C.18A:35-4.43 Infusion of African American accomplishments into school curricula.

4. a. Every board of education shall include, in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students, instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, military, government, and the professions; local communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in America.

b. The instruction shall enable students to identify and analyze applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to know and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom; to know and understand the impact of African diasporic cultures and institutions on the Americas; to know and understand the contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society throughout its history, beginning with the colonial period; to know and understand that inequality is a consequence of prejudice and discrimination in the pursuit of maintaining power and dominance over certain portions of society; to know and understand citizenship and disenfranchisement; and to understand that issues of moral dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on the nation and the self-image and self-realization of its entire population, especially the personal and civic development of students in grades kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the national ideals of freedom and justice for all.

c. The Department of Education shall work with the Amistad Commission to ensure that all department assessment tools for New Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements established pursuant to this section.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 7, 2021.

§2 C.52:16A-86.1
§§3,4
C.18A:35-4.42
and
18A:35-4.43

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 153, *approved January 7, 2021*
Senate, No. 1028 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the Amistad Commission, amending
2 P.L.2002, c.75, and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.
4

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

8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-87) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. The Amistad Commission, so named in honor of the
11 group of enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque who, while being
12 transported in 1839 on a vessel named the Amistad, gained their
13 freedom after overthrowing the crew and eventually having their
14 case successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, is
15 created and established in the Executive Branch of the State
16 Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of
17 Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
18 the commission is allocated **【within the Department of State】** in but
19 not of the Department of Education, but notwithstanding this
20 allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision
21 or control by the department or any board or officer thereof.

22 ¹The executive director of the Amistad Commission shall submit
23 requests for the budget of the Amistad Commission directly to the
24 Governor who shall review the requests and forward them to the
25 Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
26 Treasury.¹ State support for the operations of the Amistad
27 Commission shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the
28 commission through a separate line item in the annual
29 appropriations act.

30 The commission shall consist of **【23】** 22 members, including
31 **【the Secretary of State or a designee,】** the Commissioner of
32 Education or a designee, who shall serve as a voting member, and
33 the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council or a
34 designee, serving ex officio, two members of the Senate or their
35 designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political
36 party, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as **【non-**

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted February 13, 2020.

1 voting] voting members for the two-year legislative term during
2 which they are appointed, two members of the General Assembly or
3 their designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same
4 political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
5 to serve as **[non-voting]** voting members for the two-year
6 legislative term during which they are appointed, and 16 public
7 members.

8 Public members , all of whom shall serve as voting members,
9 shall be appointed as follows: four public members, no more than
10 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
11 by the President of the Senate; four public members, no more than
12 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
13 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and eight public members,
14 no more than four of whom shall be of the same political party,
15 shall be appointed by the Governor. The public members shall be
16 residents of this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic
17 representation and racial and ethnic diversity, who have an interest
18 in the history of the African slave trade and slavery in America and
19 the accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-
20 Americans to our society.

21 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a
22 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:
23 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
24 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two
25 members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one
26 year; one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one
27 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and
28 three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of
29 two years; and two members appointed by the President of the
30 Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General
31 Assembly, and three members appointed by the Governor shall
32 serve for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for
33 reappointment. They shall serve until their successors are appointed
34 and qualified, and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall
35 be calculated from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A
36 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in
37 the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired
38 term only.

39 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
40 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
41 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

42 d. The **[Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as the**
43 **chair and the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, shall serve**
44 **as the vice-chair of the]** commission shall annually elect a
45 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members. The
46 commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or of a
47 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority

1 of the authorized voting membership of the commission shall be
2 required for the conduct of official business.

3 e. **【The New Jersey Historical Commission shall serve as staff**
4 **for the Amistad Commission. The New Jersey Historical**
5 **Commission may, subject to the availability of appropriations, hire**
6 **additional staff and consultants to carry out the duties and**
7 **responsibilities of the Amistad Commission.】** The commission
8 shall interview and appoint an executive director, who shall serve at
9 its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training and
10 experience to perform the duties of the office. The commission
11 shall approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all persons
12 recommended for employment by its executive director. ¹**【The**
13 **Department of Education shall provide any additional staff that the**
14 **Amistad Commission might deem necessary.】**¹

15 f. The **【Department of Education】** Amistad Commission shall:

16 (1) **【assist the Amistad Commission in marketing and**
17 **distributing】** market and distribute to educators, administrators and
18 school districts in the State educational information and other
19 materials on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the
20 vestiges of slavery in this country and the contributions of African-
21 Americans to our society;

22 (2) conduct **【at least one】** teacher **【workshop】** workshops
23 annually on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges
24 of slavery in this country and the accomplishments, experiences,
25 and contributions of African-Americans to our society, covering
26 information which often has been omitted from traditional
27 curricula;

28 (3) **【assist the Amistad Commission in monitoring】** monitor and
29 assess the inclusion of such materials and curricula in the State's
30 educational system; and

31 (4) **【consult with the Amistad Commission to determine ways it**
32 **may】** survey, catalog, and **【extend】** recommend to the State Board
33 of Education the expansion of, content about slave trade 【and】 ,
34 American slavery education , and African-American history
35 presently being incorporated into the 【Core Curriculum Content
36 Standards】 New Jersey Student Learning Standards and taught in
37 the State's educational system , the purpose of which is to ensure
38 that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep knowledge of
39 all people who contributed to the founding and development of New
40 Jersey and the United States and to promote the self-esteem,
41 confidence, and identity of students who previously may not have
42 learned about past and living examples of people of their own
43 cultural identity who have had positive impacts upon the American
44 story.

45 (cf: P.L.2004, c.94, s.1)

1 2. (New section) As used in P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-
2 86 et seq.) and P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
3 this bill), “African American” means all people of African descent
4 in the United States.

5
6 3. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

7 a. Since the days of slavery, public school curricula have
8 consistently omitted or misrepresented the history of African
9 Americans.

10 b. To correct these omissions, all public schools in the State of
11 New Jersey should include instruction that infuses into all courses
12 on the United States, the centuries of contributions and
13 accomplishments by African Americans in the building and
14 development of America.

15 c. The Amistad Commission, created pursuant to P.L.2002,
16 c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.), is responsible for designing and
17 promoting the implementation of education and awareness
18 programs in New Jersey concerned with slavery in America and the
19 contributions of African Americans, and for developing curriculum
20 guidelines for the teaching of this information. The Amistad
21 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
22 to school districts.

23
24 4. (New section) a. Every board of education shall include,
25 in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students,
26 instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the
27 centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building
28 and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas
29 of industry, military, government, and the professions; local
30 communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and
31 the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in
32 America.

33 b. The instruction shall enable students to identify and analyze
34 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to know
35 and understand the nation’s heritage of slavery and freedom; to
36 know and understand the impact of African diasporic cultures and
37 institutions on the Americas; to know and understand the
38 contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society
39 throughout its history, beginning with the colonial period; to know
40 and understand that inequality is a consequence of prejudice and
41 discrimination in the pursuit of maintaining power and dominance
42 over certain portions of society; to know and understand citizenship
43 and disenfranchisement; and to understand that issues of moral
44 dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on the nation and
45 the self-image and self-realization of its entire population,
46 especially the personal and civic development of students in grades
47 kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall also emphasize the
48 personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred

1 whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the national ideals
2 of freedom and justice for all.

3 c. The Department of Education shall work with the Amistad
4 Commission to ensure that all department assessment tools for New
5 Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements
6 established pursuant to this section.

7

8 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

12

13 Allocates Amistad Commission in but not of DOE; requires
14 commission to elect chairperson and appoint executive director;
15 requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments
16 and contributions of African Americans to American society.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3601

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Jasey

SYNOPSIS

Allocates Amistad Commission in but not of DOE; requires commission to elect chairperson and appoint executive director; requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to American society; appropriates \$400,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

A3601 QUIJANO, MCKNIGHT

2

1 AN ACT concerning the Amistad Commission, amending P.L.2002,
2 c.75, supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-87) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. The Amistad Commission, so named in honor of the
11 group of enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque who, while being
12 transported in 1839 on a vessel named the Amistad, gained their
13 freedom after overthrowing the crew and eventually having their
14 case successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, is
15 created and established in the Executive Branch of the State
16 Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions of
17 Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution,
18 the commission is allocated **【within the Department of State】** in but
19 not of the Department of Education, but notwithstanding this
20 allocation, the commission shall be independent of any supervision
21 or control by the department or any board or officer thereof. State
22 support for the operations of the Amistad Commission shall be
23 appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a
24 separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

25 The commission shall consist of **【23】** 22 members, including
26 **【the Secretary of State or a designee,】** the Commissioner of
27 Education or a designee , who shall serve as a voting member, and
28 the chair of the executive board of the Presidents' Council or a
29 designee, serving ex officio, two members of the Senate or their
30 designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political
31 party, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as **【non-**
32 **voting】** voting members for the two-year legislative term during
33 which they are appointed, two members of the General Assembly or
34 their designees, no more than one of whom shall be of the same
35 political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
36 to serve as **【non-voting】** voting members for the two-year
37 legislative term during which they are appointed, and 16 public
38 members.

39 Public members , all of whom shall serve as voting members,
40 shall be appointed as follows: four public members, no more than
41 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
42 by the President of the Senate; four public members, no more than
43 two of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed
44 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and eight public members,
45 no more than four of whom shall be of the same political party,

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.

1 shall be appointed by the Governor. The public members shall be
2 residents of this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic
3 representation and racial and ethnic diversity, who have an interest
4 in the history of the African slave trade and slavery in America and
5 the accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-
6 Americans to our society.

7 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a
8 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:
9 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
10 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two
11 members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one
12 year; one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one
13 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and
14 three members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of
15 two years; and two members appointed by the President of the
16 Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the General
17 Assembly, and three members appointed by the Governor shall
18 serve for terms of three years. Public members shall be eligible for
19 reappointment. They shall serve until their successors are
20 appointed and qualified, and the term of the successor of any
21 incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of the term of that
22 incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term
23 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but
24 for the unexpired term only.

25 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
26 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
27 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

28 d. The **【**Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as the
29 chair and the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, shall serve
30 as the vice-chair of the**】** commission shall annually elect a
31 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members. The
32 commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or of a
33 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority
34 of the authorized voting membership of the commission shall be
35 required for the conduct of official business.

36 e. **【**The New Jersey Historical Commission shall serve as staff
37 for the Amistad Commission. The New Jersey Historical
38 Commission may, subject to the availability of appropriations, hire
39 additional staff and consultants to carry out the duties and
40 responsibilities of the Amistad Commission.**】** The commission
41 shall interview and appoint an executive director, who shall serve at
42 its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training and
43 experience to perform the duties of the office. The commission
44 shall approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all persons
45 recommended for employment by its executive director. The
46 Department of Education shall provide any additional staff that the
47 Amistad Commission may deem necessary.

1 f. The **【Department of Education】** Amistad Commission shall:

2 (1) **【assist the Amistad Commission in marketing and**
3 **distributing】** market and distribute to educators, administrators and
4 school districts in the State educational information and other
5 materials on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the
6 vestiges of slavery in this country and the contributions of African-
7 Americans to our society;

8 (2) conduct **【at least one】** teacher **【workshop】** workshops
9 annually on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges
10 of slavery in this country and the accomplishments, experiences,
11 and contributions of African-Americans to our society, covering
12 information which often has been omitted from traditional
13 curricula;

14 (3) **【assist the Amistad Commission in monitoring】** monitor and
15 assess the inclusion of such materials and curricula in the State's
16 educational system; and

17 (4) **【consult with the Amistad Commission to determine ways it**
18 **may】** survey, catalog, and **【extend】** recommend to the State Board
19 of Education the expansion of content about slave trade **【and】** ,
20 American slavery education , and African-American history
21 presently being incorporated into the **【Core Curriculum Content**
22 **Standards】** New Jersey Student Learning Standards and taught in
23 the State's educational system , the purpose of which is to ensure
24 that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep knowledge of
25 all people who contributed to the founding and development of New
26 Jersey and the United States and to promote the self-esteem,
27 confidence, and identity of students who previously may not have
28 learned about past and living examples of people of their own
29 cultural identity who have had positive impacts upon the American
30 story.

31 (cf: P.L.2004, c.94, s.1)

32

33 2. (New section) As used in P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et
34 seq.), "African American" means all people of African descent in
35 the United States.

36

37 3. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

38 a. Since the days of slavery, public school curricula have
39 consistently omitted or misrepresented the history of African
40 Americans.

41 b. To correct these omissions, all public schools in the State of
42 New Jersey should include instruction that infuses into all courses
43 on the United States, the centuries of contributions and
44 accomplishments by African Americans in the building and
45 development of America.

46 c. The Amistad Commission, created pursuant to P.L.2002,
47 c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.), is responsible for designing and

1 promoting the implementation of education and awareness
2 programs in New Jersey concerned with slavery in America and the
3 contributions of African Americans, and for developing curriculum
4 guidelines for the teaching of this information. The Amistad
5 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
6 to school districts.

7
8 4. (New section) a. Every board of education shall include, in
9 the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students,
10 instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the
11 centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building
12 and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas
13 of industry, military, government, and the professions; local
14 communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and
15 the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in
16 America.

17 b. The instruction shall enable students to identify and analyze
18 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to know
19 and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom; to
20 know and understand the impact of African diasporic cultures and
21 institutions on the Americas; to know and understand the
22 contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society
23 throughout its history, beginning with the colonial period; to know
24 and understand that inequality is a consequence of prejudice and
25 discrimination in the pursuit of maintaining power and dominance
26 over certain portions of society; to know and understand citizenship
27 and disenfranchisement; and to understand that issues of moral
28 dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on the nation and
29 the self-image and self-realization of its entire population,
30 especially the personal and civic development of students in grades
31 kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall also emphasize the
32 personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred
33 whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the national ideals
34 of freedom and justice for all.

35 c. The Department of Education shall work with the Amistad
36 Commission to ensure that all department assessment tools for New
37 Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements
38 established pursuant to this section.

39 d. As used in this act, "African American" means all people of
40 African descent in the United States.

41
42 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
43 Department of Education for the Amistad Commission the sum of
44 \$400,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.

45
46 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

The Amistad Commission was created by P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.) in order to coordinate educational and other programs on slavery in America and African-American history. Under the original statute, the Amistad Commission was established in the Executive Branch and allocated within the Department of State. The Amistad law, among other things, directs the Department of Education to assist the commission in developing curriculum guidelines regarding slavery and African-American history, distributing educational information and materials to school districts, and monitoring the inclusion of the materials and curricula in the State’s educational system. In June 2011, Governor Chris Christie issued Reorganization Plan No. 004-2011 to transfer the Amistad Commission from the Department of State to the Department of Education in order to improve efficiency and quality in the performance of the commission’s responsibilities.

This bill amends the statute that created the Amistad Commission to provide that the commission is allocated in but not of the Department of Education, rather than within the Department of State. Notwithstanding this allocation, the commission will be independent of any supervision or control by the department. The bill also provides that State support for the operations of the Amistad Commission will be appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will serve as a voting member of the commission, and the Secretary of State will no longer be a member of the commission. The bill directs the commission to annually elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, and provides that the commission will meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members. The bill requires the commission to appoint an executive director who is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The bill requires the commission to approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all individuals recommended for employment by the commission’s executive director. The bill directs the Department of Education to provide any additional staff deemed necessary by the commission.

It is the legislation’s intent that these changes to the Amistad law will permit the Amistad Commission to maintain its independence and ensure that the resources of the Department of Education are made available for the implementation of the law and the Amistad Commission’s mission.

In addition, the bill would supplement existing law to require all boards of education to include instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America

A3601 QUIJANO, MCKNIGHT

7

1 including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, the professions,
2 local communities, culture, arts, and the sciences. The instruction
3 must enable students to know and understand the nation's heritage
4 of slavery and freedom and the contributions of African Americans
5 to all areas of American society throughout history. The instruction
6 must also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to
7 fight racism and hatred and to uphold the national ideals of freedom
8 and justice. The bill directs the Department of Education to work
9 with the Amistad Commission to ensure that the assessment tools
10 for New Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements
11 established under the bill.

12 This bill also appropriates to the Department of Education for the
13 Amistad Commission the sum of \$400,000.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3601

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2020

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3601 with committee amendments.

The Amistad Commission was created by P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.) in order to coordinate educational and other programs on slavery in America and African-American history. Under the original statute, the Amistad Commission was established in the Executive Branch and allocated within the Department of State. In June 2011, Governor Chris Christie issued Reorganization Plan No. 004-2011 to transfer the Amistad Commission from the Department of State to the Department of Education in order to improve efficiency and quality in the performance of the commission's responsibilities.

As amended, this bill amends the statute that created the Amistad Commission to provide that the commission is allocated in but not of the Department of Education, rather than within the Department of State. Notwithstanding this allocation, the commission will be independent of any supervision or control by the department. As amended, the bill provides that the executive director of the commission will submit requests for the commission's budget directly to the Governor who will review the requests and forward them to the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. State support for the operations of the Amistad Commission will be appropriated by the Legislature to the commission through a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will serve as a voting member of the commission, and the Secretary of State will no longer be a member of the commission. The bill directs the commission to annually elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, and provides that the commission will meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members. The bill requires the commission to appoint an executive director who is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The bill requires the commission to approve all Amistad personnel job descriptions and all individuals recommended for employment by the commission's executive director.

In addition, the bill would supplement existing law to require all boards of education to include instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, the professions, local communities, culture, arts, and the sciences. The instruction must enable students to know and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom and the contributions of African Americans to all areas of American society throughout history. The instruction must also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred and to uphold the national ideals of freedom and justice. The bill directs the Department of Education to work with the Amistad Commission to ensure that the assessment tools for New Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements established under the bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1028 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- provide that the executive director of the commission will submit requests for the commission's budget directly to the Governor who will review the requests and forward them to the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury;
- delete a provision in the bill that requires the Department of Education to provide any additional staff that the commission deems necessary; and
- delete a section of the bill making a \$400,000 appropriation from the General Fund to the Department of Education for the Amistad Commission.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3601

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

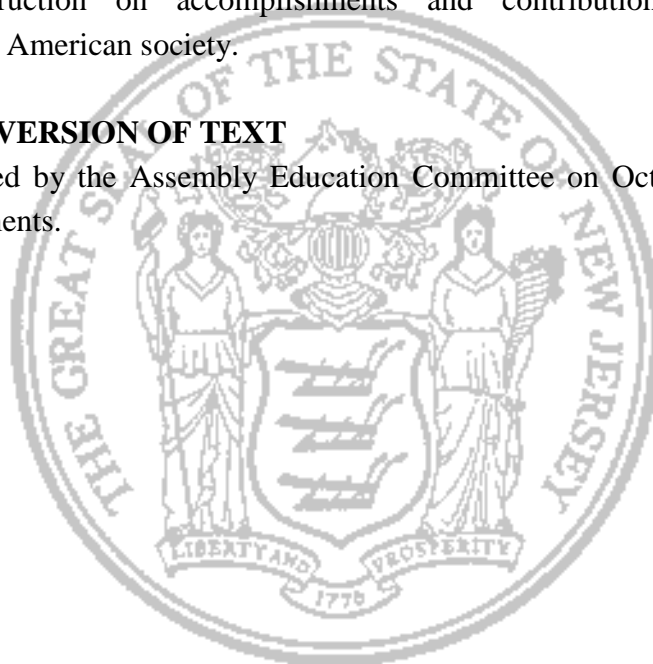
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Speight, Lampitt and Downey

SYNOPSIS

Allocates Amistad Commission in but not of DOE; requires commission to elect chairperson and appoint executive director; requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to American society.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on October 22, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the Amistad Commission, amending P.L.2002,
2 c.75, ¹and¹ supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes ¹【, and making an appropriation】¹.
4

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-87) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 2. a. The Amistad Commission, so named in honor of the group
11 of enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque who, while being
12 transported in 1839 on a vessel named the Amistad, gained their
13 freedom after overthrowing the crew and eventually having their case
14 successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, is created
15 and established in the Executive Branch of the State Government. For
16 the purposes of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section
17 IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the commission is
18 allocated **【within the Department of State】** in but not of the
19 Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the
20 commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by the
21 department or any board or officer thereof.

22 ¹The executive director of the Amistad Commission shall submit
23 requests for the budget of the Amistad Commission directly to the
24 Governor who shall review the requests and forward them to the
25 Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
26 Treasury.¹ State support for the operations of the Amistad
27 Commission shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the
28 commission through a separate line item in the annual appropriations
29 act.

30 The commission shall consist of **【23】** 22 members, including **【the**
31 **Secretary of State or a designee,】** the Commissioner of Education or a
32 designee, who shall serve as a voting member, and the chair of the
33 executive board of the Presidents' Council or a designee, serving ex
34 officio, two members of the Senate or their designees, no more than
35 one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the
36 President of the Senate to serve as **【non-voting】** voting members for
37 the two-year legislative term during which they are appointed, two
38 members of the General Assembly or their designees, no more than
39 one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the
40 Speaker of the General Assembly to serve as **【non-voting】** voting
41 members for the two-year legislative term during which they are
42 appointed, and 16 public members.

43 Public members, all of whom shall serve as voting members, shall
44 be appointed as follows: four public members, no more than two of

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 October 22, 2020.

1 whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the
2 President of the Senate; four public members, no more than two of
3 whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the
4 Speaker of the General Assembly; and eight public members, no more
5 than four of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be
6 appointed by the Governor. The public members shall be residents of
7 this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic representation
8 and racial and ethnic diversity, who have an interest in the history of
9 the African slave trade and slavery in America and the
10 accomplishments, experiences, and contributions of African-
11 Americans to our society.

12 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a term
13 of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed: one
14 member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
15 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two members
16 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of one year; one
17 member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member
18 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and three members
19 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of two years; and two
20 members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members
21 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and three members
22 appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of three years. Public
23 members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until
24 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of the
25 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration of
26 the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by
27 expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original
28 appointment but for the unexpired term only.

29 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
30 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary
31 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

32 d. The **【**Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as the chair
33 and the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, shall serve as the
34 vice-chair of the**】** commission shall annually elect a chairperson and a
35 vice-chairperson from among its members. The commission shall
36 meet upon the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the
37 commission members. The presence of a majority of the authorized
38 voting membership of the commission shall be required for the
39 conduct of official business.

40 e. **【**The New Jersey Historical Commission shall serve as staff for
41 the Amistad Commission. The New Jersey Historical Commission
42 may, subject to the availability of appropriations, hire additional staff
43 and consultants to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the
44 Amistad Commission.**】** The commission shall interview and appoint
45 an executive director, who shall serve at its pleasure and shall be a
46 person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of
47 the office. The commission shall approve all Amistad personnel job
48 descriptions and all persons recommended for employment by its

1 executive director. ¹【The Department of Education shall provide any
2 additional staff that the Amistad Commission may deem necessary.】¹

3 f. The 【Department of Education】 Amistad Commission shall:

4 (1) 【assist the Amistad Commission in marketing and distributing】
5 market and distribute to educators, administrators and school districts
6 in the State educational information and other materials on the African
7 slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country
8 and the contributions of African-Americans to our society;

9 (2) conduct 【at least one】 teacher 【workshop】 workshops
10 annually on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of
11 slavery in this country and the accomplishments, experiences, and
12 contributions of African-Americans to our society, covering
13 information which often has been omitted from traditional curricula;

14 (3) 【assist the Amistad Commission in monitoring】 monitor and
15 assess the inclusion of such materials and curricula in the State's
16 educational system; and

17 (4) 【consult with the Amistad Commission to determine ways it
18 may】 survey, catalog, and 【extend】 recommend to the State Board of
19 Education the expansion of content about slave trade 【and】 ,
20 American slavery education , and African-American history presently
21 being incorporated into the 【Core Curriculum Content Standards】
22 New Jersey Student Learning Standards and taught in the State's
23 educational system , the purpose of which is to ensure that all New
24 Jersey students acquire a broad and deep knowledge of all people who
25 contributed to the founding and development of New Jersey and the
26 United States and to promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity
27 of students who previously may not have learned about past and living
28 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
29 positive impacts upon the American story.

30 (cf: P.L.2004, c.94, s.1)

31

32 2. (New section) As used in P.L.2002, c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.)
33 ¹and P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)¹,
34 “African American” means all people of African descent in the United
35 States.

36

37 3. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

38 a. Since the days of slavery, public school curricula have
39 consistently omitted or misrepresented the history of African
40 Americans.

41 b. To correct these omissions, all public schools in the State of
42 New Jersey should include instruction that infuses into all courses
43 on the United States, the centuries of contributions and
44 accomplishments by African Americans in the building and
45 development of America.

46 c. The Amistad Commission, created pursuant to P.L.2002,
47 c.75 (C.52:16A-86 et seq.), is responsible for designing and

1 promoting the implementation of education and awareness
2 programs in New Jersey concerned with slavery in America and the
3 contributions of African Americans, and for developing curriculum
4 guidelines for the teaching of this information. The Amistad
5 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
6 to school districts.

7
8 4. (New section) a. Every board of education shall include, in
9 the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students,
10 instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the
11 centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building
12 and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of
13 industry, military, government, and the professions; local
14 communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and the
15 arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in
16 America.

17 b. The instruction shall enable students to identify and analyze
18 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to know
19 and understand the nation's heritage of slavery and freedom; to know
20 and understand the impact of African diasporic cultures and
21 institutions on the Americas; to know and understand the contributions
22 of African Americans to all areas of American society throughout its
23 history, beginning with the colonial period; to know and understand
24 that inequality is a consequence of prejudice and discrimination in the
25 pursuit of maintaining power and dominance over certain portions of
26 society; to know and understand citizenship and disenfranchisement;
27 and to understand that issues of moral dilemma and conscience have a
28 profound impact on the nation and the self-image and self-realization
29 of its entire population, especially the personal and civic development
30 of students in grades kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall
31 also emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to fight
32 racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the
33 national ideals of freedom and justice for all.

34 c. The Department of Education shall work with the Amistad
35 Commission to ensure that all department assessment tools for New
36 Jersey schools are inclusive of the curricular requirements established
37 pursuant to this section.

38 ¹【d. As used in this act, "African American" means all people of
39 African descent in the United States.】¹

40
41 ¹【5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
42 Department of Education for the Amistad Commission the sum of
43 \$400,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.】¹

44
45 ¹【6.】5.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.