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SENATE, No. 2397

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 2003

Sponsored by:

Senator BARBARA BUONO

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Mercer)

Assemblyman PATRICK DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman PETER J. BARNES, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Chivukula, Egan, Doria, Burzichelli, Fisher, Hackett,

Assemblywoman Previte, Assemblymen Caraballo, Gusciora,

Assemblywoman Friscia, Assemblymen Johnson, McKeon and

Impreveduto

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Educational Services Professionals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2003)

1 AN ACT establishing a program to recognize educational services
2 professionals and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Governor's
9 Annual Educational Services Professionals Recognition Act."

10

11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

12 a. the public school system in this State is made more successful by
13 the work of educational services professionals;

14 b. educational services professionals provide important services
15 outside of the classroom environment that improve students' academic
16 opportunities, workforce preparedness, and overall quality of life;

17 c. providing for local and Statewide recognition of outstanding
18 educational services professionals will demonstrate our appreciation
19 of their contributions and encourage others to strive for the same; and

20 d. the purpose of this act is to provide for Statewide awards and
21 recognition of the excellence of current school district employees
22 employed in a position requiring an educational services certificate.

23

24 3. As used in this act, "educational services professional" means a
25 person who holds an educational services certificate issued by the
26 State Board of Examiners and who is employed in a position that
27 requires the certificate.

28

29 4. In order to provide Statewide awards and recognition of the
30 excellence of current educational services professionals, each school
31 district may annually establish an educational services professional
32 recognition selection panel composed of members of the teaching staff,
33 administrative staff, parents and other citizens for the purpose of
34 selecting recipients for the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding
35 Educational Services Professionals.

36 The panel shall be composed of up to nine members as follows:

37 a. three members to be selected by the local board of education;

38 b. three members to be selected by the local bargaining unit which
39 represents the educational services professionals of the district.

40 Should that bargaining unit choose not to appoint members to the
41 panel, the board of education shall appoint up to three additional
42 members; and

43 c. three additional members selected jointly by the members
44 selected under subsections a. and b. of this section.

45 Should the members selected pursuant to subsections a. and b. of
46 this section fail to agree on the selection of the three additional

1 members, the additional members shall be selected by the local mayor
2 from among the district's parent organization.

3
4 5. The educational services professional recognition selection panel
5 may nominate to the local board of education one educational services
6 professional from each school in the district having 10 or more
7 educational services professionals who, because of their knowledge,
8 commitment, and creativity, have made an extraordinary contribution
9 during the previous school year to the quality of education in that
10 district. Schools having fewer than 10 educational services
11 professionals may consolidate with other schools for the purpose of
12 participating in this program, provided that the combined number of
13 educational services professionals is 10 or more. In selecting
14 educational services professionals for the Governor's Annual Award
15 for Outstanding Educational Services Professionals, the panel may
16 solicit nominations from teaching staff, administrative staff, parents,
17 students, and community members.

18 Educational services professionals who are selected for the
19 Governor's Annual Educational Services Professionals Recognition
20 Award shall have distinguished themselves through exceptional
21 contributions in the following areas:

- 22 a. interactions with students, staff, and parents while functioning
23 as a frontline advocate for the student between home and school;
24 b. fostering an environment for learning and exploring creative
25 alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potential;
26 c. supporting classroom instruction by addressing the educational,
27 social, and emotional needs of all students; and
28 d. personal interactions with students that demonstrate
29 professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion, and
30 concern for the whole child.

31 The selection panel shall consider evidence of these contributions
32 in making its decisions. Educational services professionals selected for
33 this award shall have received exemplary local district evaluation
34 reports. School districts may also consider other evidence of
35 outstanding educational services performance.

36 Educational services professionals selected for the Governor's
37 Award shall also have other acceptable personnel records which are
38 devoid of recent sanctions or deficiencies.

39 The local board of education may certify to the commissioner the
40 name of one educational services professional from each school or
41 combination of schools in the district having 10 or more educational
42 services professionals as a recipient of the Governor's Award. The
43 local board may not certify the names of any educational services
44 professionals who were not nominated by the educational services
45 professionals selection panel. Districts that do not comply with all the
46 provisions of this act shall not be included in the Governor's Award

1 program.

2 Award recipients shall not be eligible for renomination for two
3 years following their selection.

4

5 6. Annually, the Governor shall sponsor a convocation on
6 "Excellence in Educational Services" at which time each educational
7 services professional who has been selected by a local school district
8 shall be awarded a certificate of commendation.

9

10 7. The State Board of Education shall, pursuant to the
11 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
12 seq.), adopt rules and regulations which are necessary to effectuate the
13 purposes of this act.

14

15 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the
16 2003-2004 school year.

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18

19

STATEMENT

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21 This bill establishes the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding
22 Educational Services Professionals and is based upon a similar award
23 program for classroom teachers. An educational services professional
24 is defined as a school board employee who holds an educational
25 services certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners and who is
26 employed in a position that requires the certificate. Those positions
27 include substance awareness coordinator, librarian, school nurse,
28 school social worker, speech-language specialist, director of student
29 personnel services, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher-
30 consultant, school occupational and physical therapists, reading
31 specialist, educational media specialist, teacher-coordinator of
32 cooperative vocational-technical programs, and athletic trainer.

33

34 Under the bill, each school district could annually establish an
35 educational services professional recognition selection panel composed
36 of members of the teaching staff, administrative staff, parents and
37 other citizens for the purpose of selecting recipients for the Governor's
38 Annual Award. The panel would be composed of up to nine members
39 as follows: three members to be selected by the local board of
40 education; three members to be selected by the local bargaining unit
41 which represents the educational services professionals of the district;
42 and three additional members selected jointly by the other two groups.

42

43 The panel could nominate to the local board of education one
44 educational services professional from each school in the district
45 having 10 or more educational services professionals who, because of
46 their knowledge, commitment, and creativity, have made an
extraordinary contribution during the previous school year to the

1 quality of education in that district. Schools having fewer than 10
2 educational services professionals would be able to consolidate with
3 other schools for the purpose of participating in this program,
4 provided that the combined number of educational services
5 professionals is 10 or more. In selecting educational services
6 professionals for the award, the panel could solicit nominations from
7 teaching staff, administrative staff, parents, students, and community
8 members.

9 Educational services professionals who are selected for the award
10 must have distinguished themselves through exceptional contributions
11 in the following areas:

- 12 1) interactions with students, staff, and parents while functioning
13 as a frontline advocate for the student between home and school;
- 14 2) fostering an environment for learning and exploring creative
15 alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potential;
- 16 3) supporting classroom instruction by addressing the educational,
17 social, and emotional needs of all students; and
- 18 4) personal interactions with students that demonstrate
19 professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion, and
20 concern for the whole child.

21 In addition, educational services professionals selected for the
22 award must have received exemplary local district evaluation reports
23 and have other acceptable personnel records which are devoid of
24 recent sanctions or deficiencies.

25 The local board of education could certify to the commissioner the
26 name of one educational services professional from each school or
27 combination of schools in the district having 10 or more educational
28 services professionals as a recipient of the award. An award recipient
29 would not be eligible for renomination for two years following the
30 recipient's selection.

31 Annually, the Governor would sponsor a convocation on
32 "Excellence in Educational Services" at which time each educational
33 services professional who has been selected by a local school district
34 would be awarded a certificate of commendation.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2397

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 19, 2003

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2397.

This bill establishes the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Educational Services Professionals and is based upon a similar award program for classroom teachers. An educational services professional is defined as a school board employee who holds an educational services certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners and who is employed in a position that requires the certificate. Those positions include substance awareness coordinator, librarian, school nurse, school social worker, speech-language specialist, director of student personnel services, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher-consultant, school occupational and physical therapists, reading specialist, educational media specialist, teacher-coordinator of cooperative vocational-technical programs, and athletic trainer.

Under the bill, each school district could annually establish an educational services professional recognition selection panel composed of members of the teaching staff, administrative staff, parents and other citizens for the purpose of selecting recipients for the Governor's Annual Award. The panel would be composed of up to nine members as follows: three members to be selected by the local board of education; three members to be selected by the local bargaining unit which represents the educational services professionals of the district; and three additional members selected jointly by the other two groups.

The panel could nominate to the local board of education one educational services professional from each school in the district having 10 or more educational services professionals who, because of their knowledge, commitment, and creativity, have made an extraordinary contribution during the previous school year to the quality of education in that district. Schools having fewer than 10 educational services professionals would be able to consolidate with other schools for the purpose of participating in this program, provided that the combined number of educational services professionals is 10 or more. In selecting educational services professionals for the award, the panel could solicit nominations from teaching staff, administrative staff, parents, students, and community members.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Assembly, No. 3669.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2397

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 2003

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2397.

This bill establishes the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Educational Services Professionals and is based upon a similar award program for classroom teachers. An educational services professional is defined as a school board employee who holds an educational services certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners and who is employed in a position that requires the certificate. Those positions include substance awareness coordinator, librarian, school nurse, school social worker, speech-language specialist, director of student personnel services, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher-consultant, school occupational and physical therapists, reading specialist, educational media specialist, teacher-coordinator of cooperative vocational-technical programs, and athletic trainer.

Under the bill, each school district could annually establish an educational services professional recognition selection panel composed of members of the teaching staff, administrative staff, parents and other citizens for the purpose of selecting recipients for the Governor's Annual Award. The panel would be composed of up to nine members as follows: three members to be selected by the local board of education; three members to be selected by the local bargaining unit which represents the educational services professionals of the district; and three additional members selected jointly by the other two groups.

The panel could nominate to the local board of education one educational services professional from each school in the district having 10 or more educational services professionals who, because of their knowledge, commitment, and creativity, have made an extraordinary contribution during the previous school year to the quality of education in that district. Schools having fewer than 10 educational services professionals would be able to consolidate with other schools for the purpose of participating in this program, provided that the combined number of educational services professionals is 10 or more. In selecting educational services professionals for the award, the panel could solicit nominations from teaching staff, administrative staff, parents, students, and community members.

Educational services professionals who are selected for the award must have distinguished themselves through exceptional contributions in the following areas:

- 1) interactions with students, staff, and parents while functioning as a frontline advocate for the student between home and school;
- 2) fostering an environment for learning and exploring creative alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potential;
- 3) supporting classroom instruction by addressing the educational, social, and emotional needs of all students; and
- 4) personal interactions with students that demonstrate professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion, and concern for the whole child.

In addition, educational services professionals selected for the award must have received exemplary local district evaluation reports and have other acceptable personnel records which are devoid of recent sanctions or deficiencies.

The local board of education could certify to the commissioner the name of one educational services professional from each school or combination of schools in the district having 10 or more educational services professionals as a recipient of the award. An award recipient would not be eligible for renomination for two years following the recipient's selection.

Annually, the Governor would sponsor a convocation on "Excellence in Educational Services" at which time each educational services professional who has been selected by a local school district would be awarded a certificate of commendation.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3669

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2003

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PATRICK DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman PETER J. BARNES, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN

District 20 (Union)

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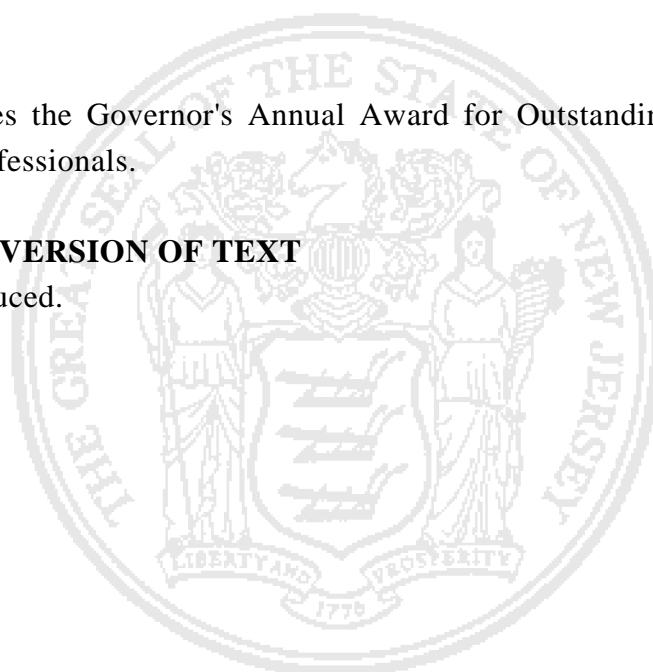
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16 opportunities, workforce preparedness, and overall quality of life;

17 c. providing for local and Statewide recognition of outstanding
18 educational services professionals will demonstrate our appreciation
19 of their contributions and encourage others to strive for the same; and

20 d. the purpose of this act is to provide for Statewide awards and
21 recognition of the excellence of current school district employees
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36 The panel shall be composed of up to nine members as follows:

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39 represents the educational services professionals of the district.
40 Should that bargaining unit choose not to appoint members to the
41 panel, the board of education shall appoint up to three additional
42 members; and

43 c. three additional members selected jointly by the members
44 selected under subsections a. and b. of this section.

45 Should the members selected pursuant to subsections a. and b. of
46 this section fail to agree on the selection of the three additional

1 members, the additional members shall be selected by the local mayor
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32 in making its decisions. Educational services professionals selected for
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34 reports. School districts may also consider other evidence of
35 outstanding educational services performance.

36 Educational services professionals selected for the Governor's
37 Award shall also have other acceptable personnel records which are
38 devoid of recent sanctions or deficiencies.

39 The local board of education may certify to the commissioner the
40 name of one educational services professional from each school or
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42 services professionals as a recipient of the Governor's Award. The
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44 professionals who were not nominated by the educational services
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2 Award recipients shall not be eligible for renomination for two
3 years following their selection.

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5 6. Annually, the Governor shall sponsor a convocation on
6 "Excellence in Educational Services" at which time each educational
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22 award must have received exemplary local district evaluation reports
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33 services professional who has been selected by a local school district
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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3669

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 19, 2003

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3669.

This bill establishes the Governor's Annual Award for Outstanding Educational Services Professionals and is based upon a similar award program for classroom teachers. An educational services professional is defined as a school board employee who holds an educational services certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners and who is employed in a position that requires the certificate. Those positions include substance awareness coordinator, librarian, school nurse, school social worker, speech-language specialist, director of student personnel services, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher-consultant, school occupational and physical therapists, reading specialist, educational media specialist, teacher-coordinator of cooperative vocational-technical programs, and athletic trainer.

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As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Senate, No.2397.