

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: Yes

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

Of possible interest:

Committee meeting of Joint Committee on the Public Schools: the Committee will be meeting to discuss the implementation of the Amistad Curriculum

June 17, 2021

974.90 S372, 2021c

Available online at <https://hdl.handle.net/10929/72631>

SENATE, No. 3654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

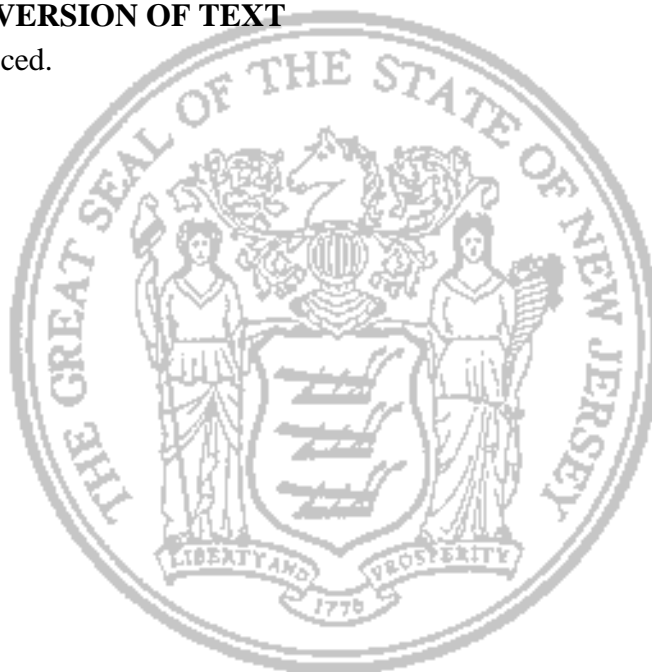
Senators T.Kean and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Amistad Curriculum Award Program for teachers who perform exemplary service providing instruction on slavery and African-American history; appropriates \$5,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/13/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the Amistad Curriculum Award Program,
2 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. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish the
9 “Amistad Curriculum Award Program.” The purpose of the program
10 is to identify outstanding educators for special recognition who
11 have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the
12 African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in
13 this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our
14 society.

15 b. The commissioner shall invite school districts, charter
16 schools, and renaissance school projects to submit nominations, on
17 an application to be developed by the commissioner, by February 1
18 of each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for
19 efforts to:

20 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
21 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
22 development of New Jersey and the United States;

23 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
24 who previously may not have learned about past and living
25 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
26 positive impacts upon the American story; and

27 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
28 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
29 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
30 study may be replicated by other educators.

31 c. Recipients of the Amistad Curriculum Award shall be named
32 annually by the Amistad Curriculum Award Committee. The
33 committee shall be an ad hoc committee, the members of which
34 shall be appointed annually. The committee shall be comprised of
35 the following members:

36 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

37 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
38 Senate;

39 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
40 Speaker of the General Assembly;

41 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
42 Association; and

43 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
44 Supervisors Association.

45 d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to
46 receive the Amistad Curriculum Award: one teacher from a school
47 that provides instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through
48 eight; and one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any

1 of the grades nine through 12. Recipients of this award shall each
2 receive \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

3

4 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
5 \$5,000 to the Department of Education to implement the provisions
6 of this act.

7

8 3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
9 following the date of enactment.

10

11

12

STATEMENT

13

14 This bill establishes the “Amistad Curriculum Award Program.”
15 The purpose of the program is to identify outstanding educators for
16 special recognition who have shown a commitment to furthering
17 student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America,
18 the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of
19 African-Americans to our society.

20 Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance
21 school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be
22 developed by the commissioner, by February 1 of each year of an
23 exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

24 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
25 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
26 development of New Jersey and the United States;

27 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
28 who previously may not have learned about past and living
29 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
30 positive impacts upon the American story; and

31 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
32 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
33 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
34 study may be replicated by other educators.

35 Recipients of the Amistad Curriculum Award will be named
36 annually by the Amistad Curriculum Award Committee. The
37 committee will be an ad hoc committee, the members of which will
38 be appointed annually. The committee will consist of:

39 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

40 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
41 Senate;

42 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
43 Speaker of the General Assembly;

44 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
45 Association; and

46 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
47 Supervisors Association.

S3654 SWEENEY, RICE

4

1 Under the bill, the award committee will annually select two
2 teachers to receive the Amistad Curriculum Award: one teacher
3 from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades
4 kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that
5 provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12.
6 Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of
7 their extraordinary contributions.
8 The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$5,000 to
9 the Department of Education to implement the provisions of this
10 bill.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3654

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 13, 2021

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 3654 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the “Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program.” The purpose of the program is to identify outstanding educators, and the school district in which the educator is employed, for special recognition who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our society.

Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be developed by the commission, by February 1 of each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

(1) 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;

(2) 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; and

(3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of study may be replicated by other educators.

Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award will be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee. The committee will be an ad hoc committee, the members of which, except for the executive director of the Amistad Commission, will be appointed annually. The committee will consist of:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor;

(2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education Association;

(5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and

(6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a designee, who will serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee.

Under the bill, the award committee will annually select two teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12. Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

Under the bill, each school district in which the teacher award recipient is employed will also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award. Each school district that receives an award will receive \$2,500, which will be used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of this bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) provide that the Amistad Commission, rather than the Commissioner of Education, would establish and administer the award program;

(2) rename the program as the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award program;

(3) add the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a designee, to the membership of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee and provide that the executive director of the Amistad Commission will serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee;

(4) provide that each school district in which a teacher recipient of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award is employed will also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award and \$2,500 to be used to help other teachers in their district implement the teacher award recipient's curriculum and teaching techniques; and

(5) appropriate from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of the bill.

ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 2021

The Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3654 (1R).

This bill establishes the “Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program.” The purpose of the program is to identify outstanding educators, and the school district in which the educator is employed, for special recognition who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our society.

Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be developed by the commission, by February 1 of each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

(1) 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;

(2) 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; and

(3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of study may be replicated by other educators.

Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award will be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee. The committee will be an ad hoc committee, the members of which, except for the executive director of the Amistad Commission, will be appointed annually. The committee will consist of:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor;

(2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education Association;

(5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and

(6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a designee, who will serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee.

Under the bill, the award committee will annually select two teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12. Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

Under the bill, each school district in which the teacher award recipient is employed will also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award. Each school district that receives an award will receive \$2,500, which will be used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of this bill.

As released by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5845, as that bill was also reported by the committee on this date.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senators T.Kean, Turner, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Vainieri
Huttle**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program; appropriates \$10,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on May 13, 2021, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the Amistad ¹**【Curriculum】** Commission
 2 Exemplary¹ Award Program, supplementing ¹**【chapter 35 of】**¹
 3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an
 4 appropriation.

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

8
 9 1. a. The ¹**【Commissioner of Education】** Amistad
 10 Commission¹ shall establish the “Amistad ¹**【Curriculum】**
 11 Commission Exemplary¹ Award Program.” The purpose of the
 12 program is to identify outstanding educators, ¹and the school
 13 district in which the educator is employed,¹ for special recognition
 14 who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on
 15 the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery
 16 in this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our
 17 society.

18 b. The ¹**【commissioner】** commission¹ shall invite school
 19 districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects to submit
 20 nominations, on an application to be developed by the
 21 ¹**【commissioner】** commission¹, by February 1 of each year of an
 22 exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

23 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
 24 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
 25 development of New Jersey and the United States;

26 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
 27 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; and

30 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
 31 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
 32 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
 33 study may be replicated by other educators.

34 c. Recipients of the Amistad ¹**【Curriculum】** Commission
 35 Exemplary¹ Award shall be named annually by the Amistad
 36 ¹**【Curriculum】** Commission Exemplary¹ Award Committee. The
 37 committee shall be an ad hoc committee, the members of which¹,
 38 except for the executive director of the Amistad Commission,¹ shall
 39 be appointed annually. The committee shall be comprised of the
 40 following members:

41 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

42 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
 43 Senate;

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 May 13, 2021.

- 1 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
2 Speaker of the General Assembly;
- 3 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
4 Association; ¹**and**¹
- 5 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
6 Supervisors Association ¹; and
- 7 (6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a
8 designee, who shall serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission
9 Exemplary Award Committee¹.
- 10 d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to
11 receive the Amistad ¹**Curriculum** Commission Exemplary¹
12 Award: one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of
13 the grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a
14 school that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through
15 12. Recipients of this award shall each receive \$2,500 in
16 recognition of their extraordinary contributions.
- 17 ¹e. Each school district in which the award recipient selected
18 pursuant to the provisions of subsection d. of this section is
19 employed shall also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary
20 Award. Each school district that receives an award under the
21 provisions of this subsection shall receive \$2,500, which shall be
22 used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the
23 curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.¹
24
- 25 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
26 ¹**[\$5,000]** \$10,000¹ to the ¹**Department of Education** Amistad
27 Commission¹ to implement the provisions of this act.
28
- 29 3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
30 following the date of enactment.

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 209, *approved August 31, 2021*
Senate, No. 3654 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the Amistad ¹**【Curriculum】** Commission
2 Exemplary¹ Award Program, supplementing ¹**【chapter 35 of】**¹
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an
4 appropriation.

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

8
9 1. a. The ¹**【Commissioner of Education】** Amistad
10 Commission¹ shall establish the “Amistad ¹**【Curriculum】**
11 Commission Exemplary¹ Award Program.” The purpose of the
12 program is to identify outstanding educators, ¹and the school
13 district in which the educator is employed,¹ for special recognition
14 who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on
15 the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery
16 in this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our
17 society.

18 b. The ¹**【commissioner】** commission¹ shall invite school
19 districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects to submit
20 nominations, on an application to be developed by the
21 ¹**【commissioner】** commission¹, by February 1 of each year of an
22 exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

23 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
24 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
25 development of New Jersey and the United States;

26 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
27 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; and

30 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
31 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
32 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
33 study may be replicated by other educators.

34 c. Recipients of the Amistad ¹**【Curriculum】** Commission
35 Exemplary¹ Award shall be named annually by the Amistad
36 ¹**【Curriculum】** Commission Exemplary¹ Award Committee. The

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 May 13, 2021.

1 committee shall be an ad hoc committee, the members of which¹,
2 except for the executive director of the Amistad Commission,¹ shall
3 be appointed annually. The committee shall be comprised of the
4 following members:

- 5 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;
- 6 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
7 Senate;
- 8 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
9 Speaker of the General Assembly;
- 10 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
11 Association; ¹**[and]**¹
- 12 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
13 Supervisors Association ¹; and
- 14 (6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a
15 designee, who shall serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission
16 Exemplary Award Committee¹.

17 d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to
18 receive the Amistad ¹**[Curriculum]** Commission Exemplary¹
19 Award: one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of
20 the grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a
21 school that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through
22 12. Recipients of this award shall each receive \$2,500 in
23 recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

24 ¹e. Each school district in which the award recipient selected
25 pursuant to the provisions of subsection d. of this section is
26 employed shall also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary
27 Award. Each school district that receives an award under the
28 provisions of this subsection shall receive \$2,500, which shall be
29 used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the
30 curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.¹

31
32 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
33 ¹**[\$5,000]** \$10,000¹ to the ¹**[Department of Education]** Amistad
34 Commission¹ to implement the provisions of this act.

35
36 3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
37 following the date of enactment.

38
39
40
41
42 Establishes Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program;
43 appropriates \$10,000.

CHAPTER 209

AN ACT establishing the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program, supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

C.52:16A-88.1 “Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program.”

1. a. The Amistad Commission shall establish the “Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program.” The purpose of the program is to identify outstanding educators, and the school district in which the educator is employed, for special recognition who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our society.

b. The commission shall invite school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects to submit nominations, on an application to be developed by the commission, by February 1 of each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

(1) 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;

(2) 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; and

(3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of study may be replicated by other educators.

c. Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award shall be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee. The committee shall be an ad hoc committee, the members of which, except for the executive director of the Amistad Commission, shall be appointed annually. The committee shall be comprised of the following members:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor;

(2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education Association;

(5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and

(6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a designee, who shall serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee.

d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12. Recipients of this award shall each receive \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

e. Each school district in which the award recipient selected pursuant to the provisions of subsection d. of this section is employed shall also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award. Each school district that receives an award under the provisions of this subsection shall receive \$2,500, which shall be used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 209

2

2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of this act.

3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year following the date of enactment.

Approved August 31, 2021.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5845

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Vainieri Huttle

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program; appropriates \$10,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award
2 Program, supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes,
3 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. a. The Amistad Commission shall establish the “Amistad
9 Commission Exemplary Award Program.” The purpose of the
10 program is to identify outstanding educators, and the school district
11 in which the educator is employed, for special recognition who have
12 shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the
13 African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in
14 this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our
15 society.

16 b. The commission shall invite school districts, charter schools,
17 and renaissance school projects to submit nominations, on an
18 application to be developed by the commission, by February 1 of
19 each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for
20 efforts to:

21 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
22 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
23 development of New Jersey and the United States;

24 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
25 who previously may not have learned about past and living
26 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
27 positive impacts upon the American story; and

28 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
29 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment
30 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
31 study may be replicated by other educators.

32 c. Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award
33 shall be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary
34 Award Committee. The committee shall be an ad hoc committee,
35 the members of which, except for the executive director of the
36 Amistad Commission, shall be appointed annually. The committee
37 shall be comprised of the following members:

38 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

39 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
40 Senate;

41 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
42 Speaker of the General Assembly;

43 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
44 Association;

45 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
46 Supervisors Association; and

1 (6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a
2 designee, who shall serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission
3 Exemplary Award Committee.

4 d. The award committee shall annually select two teachers to
5 receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher
6 from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades
7 kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that
8 provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12.
9 Recipients of this award shall each receive \$2,500 in recognition of
10 their extraordinary contributions.

11 e. Each school district in which the award recipient selected
12 pursuant to the provisions of subsection d. of this section is
13 employed shall also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary
14 Award. Each school district that receives an award under the
15 provisions of this subsection shall receive \$2,500, which shall be
16 used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the
17 curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.

18

19 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
20 \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of
21 this act.

22

23 3. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
24 following the date of enactment.

25

26

27 STATEMENT

28

29 This bill establishes the “Amistad Commission Exemplary
30 Award Program.” The purpose of the program is to identify
31 outstanding educators, and the school district in which the educator
32 is employed, for special recognition who have shown a commitment
33 to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery
34 in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the
35 contributions of African-Americans to our society.

36 Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance
37 school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be
38 developed by the commission, by February 1 of each year of an
39 exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

40 (1) ensure that all New Jersey students acquire a broad and deep
41 knowledge of all people who contributed to the founding and
42 development of New Jersey and the United States;

43 (2) promote the self-esteem, confidence, and identity of students
44 who previously may not have learned about past and living
45 examples of people of their own cultural identity who have had
46 positive impacts upon the American story; and

47 (3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of
48 study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment

1 with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of
2 study may be replicated by other educators.

3 Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award will
4 be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award
5 Committee. The committee will be an ad hoc committee, the
6 members of which, except for the executive director of the Amistad
7 Commission, will be appointed annually. The committee will
8 consist of:

9 (1) one member appointed by the Governor;

10 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the
11 Senate;

12 (3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the
13 Speaker of the General Assembly;

14 (4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education
15 Association;

16 (5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and
17 Supervisors Association; and

18 (6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a
19 designee, who will serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission
20 Exemplary Award Committee.

21 Under the bill, the award committee will annually select two
22 teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award:
23 one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the
24 grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school
25 that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12.
26 Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of
27 their extraordinary contributions.

28 Under the bill, each school district in which the teacher award
29 recipient is employed will also receive the Amistad Commission
30 Exemplary Award. Each school district that receives an award will
31 receive \$2,500, which will be used to assist other teachers in the
32 school district implement the curriculum and teaching techniques of
33 the teacher award recipient.

34 The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000
35 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of this bill.

ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5845

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 2021

The Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5845.

This bill establishes the “Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Program.” The purpose of the program is to identify outstanding educators, and the school district in which the educator is employed, for special recognition who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African-Americans to our society.

Under the bill, school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects will submit nominations, on an application to be developed by the commission, by February 1 of each year of an exemplary teacher who deserves recognition for efforts to:

(1) 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;

(2) 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; and

(3) provide exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of study that demonstrate effective instruction of students in alignment with the Amistad curriculum and which lessons, units, or courses of study may be replicated by other educators.

Recipients of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award will be named annually by the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee. The committee will be an ad hoc committee, the members of which, except for the executive director of the Amistad Commission, will be appointed annually. The committee will consist of:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor;

(2) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(4) one member appointed by the New Jersey Education Association;

(5) one member appointed by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and

(6) the executive director of the Amistad Commission, or a designee, who will serve as the chair of the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award Committee.

Under the bill, the award committee will annually select two teachers to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades kindergarten through eight; and one teacher from a school that provides instruction in any of the grades nine through 12. Recipients of this award will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary contributions.

Under the bill, each school district in which the teacher award recipient is employed will also receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award. Each school district that receives an award will receive \$2,500, which will be used to assist other teachers in the school district implement the curriculum and teaching techniques of the teacher award recipient.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 to the Amistad Commission to implement the provisions of this bill.

As released by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3654 (1R), as that bill was also reported by the committee on this date.