18A:4-1.1 to 18A:4-1.5, Secs.6-8 T&E, Sec.9 Approp
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2023 **CHAPTER:** 277

NJSA: 18A:4-1.1 to 18A:4-1.5, Secs.6-8 T&E, Sec.9 Approp Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."; appropriates $200,000.

BILL NO: S3080 (Substituted for A398 (ACS))

SPONSOR(S) Ruiz, M. Teresa and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 9/29/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

SENATE: Education
Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 01/08/2024

SENATE: 03/20/2023

DATE OF APPROVAL: 1/16/2024

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (S3080 ScaScsAcaSa (SCS/2R) enacted) Yes

S3080

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY**: Yes Appropriations

SENATE: Yes Education
Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes 01/11/2023
02/01/2023
03/02/2023
09/12/2023

A398 (ACS)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY**: Yes Education
Appropriations

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No	
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes	01/11/2023 03/02/2023
VETO MESSAGE:	No	
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes	

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

CL/MM

§§1-5
C.18A:4-1.1
to 18A:4-1.5
§§6-8
T & E
§9
Approp.

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 277, ***approved January 16, 2024***
Senate Committee Substitute ***(Second Reprint)*** for
Senate, No. 3080

AN ACT concerning disconnected youth [2]**[**and**]** **,**[2] supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes [2]<u>, and making an appropriation</u>[2] .

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. New Jersey and the nation have experienced an increase in the number of disconnected youth, which are young adults aged 16 to 24 who are disconnected from both school and employment.

b. In New Jersey, more than 100,000 [2]**[**students**]** <u>individuals</u>[2] were disconnected from school in 2021.

c. Disconnection from school can negatively impact [2]**[**a student**]** <u>an individual</u>[2] and their family and can have an enduring economic and social impact on the local community and society at large.

d. Despite common misconceptions, youth disconnection is not consigned to a singular demographic region or racial or ethnic group, as youth disconnection rates are high across all counties and racial and ethnic groups.

e. While the challenge of reengaging disconnected youth has persisted for decades, the COVID-19 pandemic illuminated and exacerbated youth disconnection, making it an issue that should urgently be addressed.

f. It is altogether fitting and proper that the State ensure all young people receive the resources and support to achieve their educational and postsecondary goals by providing prevention and intervention strategies for reengaging disconnected youth across the State.

2. As used in this act, "disconnected youth" means youth and young adults aged 16 to 24 who are not currently attending school, participating in a training program, or employed.

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 <u>thus</u> is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
[1] Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 23, 2023.
[2] Senate floor amendments adopted March 20, 2023.

3. a. There is hereby established in the Department of Education a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. The Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall appoint the ombudsperson no later than the 90th day following the date of enactment of this act. The ombudsperson shall report directly to the Commissioner of Education and shall only be answerable to the commissioner. The ombudsperson shall maintain a collaborative relationship with the Secretary of Higher Education. The ombudsperson shall implement a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent ²[students] individuals² aged 16 to 24 from disconnecting from school, address the need for the reengagement of disconnected youth, and develop strategies to increase reengagement.

b. The ombudsperson shall serve for a term of four years and until the appointment and qualification of a successor. A vacancy occurring in the position of the ombudsperson shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that if the ombudsperson dies, resigns, becomes ineligible to serve for any reason, or is removed from office, the Governor shall appoint an acting ombudsperson who shall serve until the appointment and qualification of the ombudsperson's successor. The ombudsperson shall be a person of recognized judgment, integrity, and objectivity, and shall be skilled in communication, conflict resolution, and professionalism. The ombudsperson shall have hands-on practical experience working with disconnected youth and demonstrated higher-level leadership in an agency, institution, or organization that directly or indirectly addresses the subject of disconnected youth.

4. The duties of the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson established pursuant to section 3 of this act shall include, but not be limited to:

a. collaborating with school districts to develop and implement a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent ²[students] individuals² aged 16 to 24 from disconnecting from school;

b. collaborating with other agencies to address the challenges facing ²[student dropouts] disconnected individuals² , which agencies shall include the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Department of Children and Families;

c. addressing issues associated with the reengagement of ²[students] individuals² and developing programs to facilitate the return of disconnected ²[students] individuals² to the classroom;

d. developing and recommending to school districts programs and best practices, consistent with the recommendations of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force established pursuant to this act, to prevent ²[students] individuals² from disconnecting from school

and strategies for reengaging [2]⟦students⟧ individuals[2] who have disconnected from school;

e. collaborating with the Secretary of Higher Education to develop and establish best practices for reengaging disconnected youth in institutions of higher education; and

f. advising the Commissioner of Education and making recommendations, consistent with the recommendations of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force established pursuant to section 6 of this act, to prevent [2]⟦students⟧ individuals[2] from disconnecting from school and strategies for reengaging [2]⟦students⟧ individuals[2] who have disconnected from school.

5. a. The Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson shall annually issue a written report to the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education. The report shall include a summary of the services the ombudsperson provided during the year, a summary of progress towards mitigating the rising number of disconnected youth, and any specific recommendations the ombudsperson deems appropriate and necessary concerning the State's provision of services and support to disconnected youth.

b. The ombudsperson shall annually issue the report prepared to subsection a. of this section to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

6. a. There is established the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force." The purpose of the task force shall be to analyze the causes of school disconnection for [2]⟦high school students and students at⟧ individuals from high schools and[2] public institutions of higher education, recommend best practices for reducing school disconnection to school districts and public institutions of higher education, and support the development of strategies to reengage disconnected youth as that term is defined in section 2 of this act. In addition to serving as the chairperson of the task force, the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson shall serve as the director of the task force and shall ensure that the task force completes all duties required pursuant to section 7 of this act.

b. The task force shall consist of [2]⟦25⟧ 23[2] members as follows:

(1) the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson established pursuant to section 3 of this act, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force;

(2) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(3) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(4) the Secretary of Higher Education, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(5) the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(6) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, who shall serve ex officio;

(7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(8) the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio; and

(9) [2]⟦17⟧ 15[2] members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:

(a) [1]⟦three⟧ two[1] superintendents of public school districts [1]⟦, one each from an urban, suburban, and rural school district⟧ and one school principal[1];

(b) the president of a county college, or a designee;

(c) [2]⟦two⟧ one[2] previously disconnected youth;

(d) [2]⟦a student⟧ an individual[2] who attends a public high school with a high [2]⟦student dropout⟧[2] rate [2]of disconnected individuals[2] ;

(e) the parent of a previously disconnected youth;

(f) a teacher employed at a public high school with a high [2]⟦student dropout⟧[2] rate [2]of disconnected individuals[2] ;

(g) a [2]⟦guidance⟧ school[2] counselor employed at a public high school with a high [2]⟦student dropout⟧[2] rate [2]of disconnected individuals[2];

(h) [2]⟦two⟧ one[2] senior staff [2]⟦members⟧ member[2] of [2]⟦two different⟧ a[2] community-based [2]⟦organizations⟧ organization[2] serving disconnected youth or engaging in disconnected youth prevention work from one of New Jersey's largest urban cities;

(i) a senior staff member of Garden State Equality, or its successor organization;

(j) a senior staff member of Disability Rights New Jersey, or its successor organization;

(k) a senior staff member of YouthBuild Newark, or its successor organization;

(l) a senior staff member of a youth homelessness organization; and

(m) a member of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

d. The task force shall organize no later than the 90th day after the appointment of the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery

Ombudsperson pursuant to section 3 of this act. The task force shall choose a vice-chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

e. The Department of Education shall provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

7. It shall be the duty of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force to study and analyze the causes of ²[students] individuals² leaving school prior to graduation ², conduct a landscape analysis to understand the scope of school disconnection in the State,² and recommend best practices for reducing the rate of school disconnection and increasing the number of ²[students] individuals² who reengage in school. The task force shall, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, including the age, ethnicity, and gender of disconnected youth;

b. research programs and initiatives addressing school disconnection;

c. examine the reasons why ²[students] individuals² leave school, including possible contributing factors ²,²such as household income, cultural or language barriers, or ²[being a child from a single parent household] parental engagement² ;

d. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of disconnected youth and increase student engagement;

e. develop mechanisms to increase the reengagement of ²[students] individuals² who have disconnected from school;

f. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support ²[students] individuals² to prevent disconnection from school; ²[and]²

g. ²research and analyze the potential to create and implement an early warning system to prevent disconnection from school; and

h.² advise the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson established pursuant to section 3 of this act on the task force's findings.

8. a. The School Disconnection Prevention Task Force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than ²[nine] 12² months after the task force organizes. If additional time is necessary to complete the final report, the task force shall notify the Governor and the Legislature of the reason for the delay. The report shall contain the task force's findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate.

b. The task force shall also issue the report prepared to subsection a. of this section to the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

c. The task force shall expire on the 30th day after the issuance of its final report.

d. One year after the issuance of the final report of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force pursuant to this act, the Commissioner of Education shall appear before the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee or the Assembly Oversight, Reform, and Federal Relations Committee, or their successor reference committees, or other reference committee, at the direction of the presiding officer, to provide an update concerning the progress of the department's implementation of the recommendations of the task force including, but not limited to, timelines and strategies for the future implementation of any recommendations that have not been implemented.

[1][9. If, one year after the effective date of this act, the Governor has failed to appoint a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson as required pursuant to section 3 of this act, the Governor, or a designee, shall appear before the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee or the Assembly Oversight, Reform, and Federal Relations Committee, or their successor reference committees, or other reference committee, at the direction of the presiding officer, to explain why an ombudsperson has not been appointed and to describe actions taken by the Governor to appoint an ombudsperson.]**[1]**

[2]<u>9. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education the sum of $200,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.</u>**[2]**

10. This act shall take effect immediately.

Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force"; appropriates $200,000.

SENATE, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/14/2022)

AN ACT concerning students who drop out of school and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth. The purpose of the office shall be to develop a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent students from dropping out of school, address the need for the reenrollment of student dropouts, and develop strategies to increase reenrollment.

b. The Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth, in consultation with the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall at a minimum:

(1) collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts;

(2) develop and recommend to school districts programs to prevent students from dropping out of school; and

c. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

(1) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(2) the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(3) two members of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Senate President;

d. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a person to head the office who shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his entire time to the performance of those duties.

2. a. There is established the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school.

b. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

(1) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(2) the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(3) two members of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Senate President;

(4) two members of the General Assembly, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and

(5) eleven members appointed by the Governor, who shall include: three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban, and rural school district; two presidents of New Jersey county colleges; two members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; two members employed at a high school in an urban school district with a high student drop out rate, one of whom shall be a principal and one of whom shall be a guidance counselor; and two teachers, one of whom shall be employed in an urban school district with a high student drop out rate.

c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task force.

d. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

e. The Department of Education shall provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

3. It shall be the duty of the task force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation and to recommend best practices for reducing the student dropout rate and increasing the number of students who re-enroll in school. The task force shall, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, research, programs, and initiatives concerning student dropouts;

b. examine reasons why students leave school;

c. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of students who leave school prior to graduation and increase student engagement while in school;

d. develop mechanisms to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school; and

e. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support students in order to prevent them from leaving school.

4. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

b. The task force shall expire on the 30th day after the issuance of its final report.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the Department of Education. The bill requires the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth: to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts; recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school; and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

This bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school. The task force will, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, research, programs, and initiatives concerning student dropouts;

b. examine the reasons why students leave school;

c. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of students who leave school prior to graduation and increase student engagement while in school;

d. develop mechanisms to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school; and

e. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support students in order to prevent them from leaving school.

The 17-member task force will include the Commissioners of Education and Department of Corrections; two members of the Senate, one from each political party; two members of the General Assembly, one from each political party; three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban, and rural school district; two presidents of New Jersey county colleges; two members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; two members employed at a high school in an urban school district with a high student drop out

rate, one of whom will be a principal and one of whom will be a guidance counselor; and two teachers, one of whom will be employed in an urban school district with a high student drop out rate. The task force will issue a final report to the Governor and to the Legislature containing its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 3080

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments the for Senate Bill No. 3080 (SCS).

As amended, this committee substitute establishes the position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson and establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

The committee substitute specifically establishes a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. The ombudsperson is to be appointed by the Governor, serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and report directly to the Commissioner of Education. Pursuant to the committee substitute, the duties of the ombudsperson include:

- collaborating with school districts to develop and implement a Statewide strategic plan of action;
- collaborating with a variety of governmental agencies to address the challenges facing student dropouts;
- developing best practices consistent with the recommendations of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force; and
- advising the commissioner on ways to prevent students from disconnecting from school and strategies for reengaging students who have disconnected from school.

The committee substitute requires the ombudsperson to annually submit a report summarizing services provided, progress in reducing disconnected youth, and recommendations on services and support for disconnected youth to the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Governor, and the Legislature.

This committee substitute also establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force." The task force consists of 25 members including: the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson, who will serve as the chair of the task force; the Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Corrections, Labor and Workforce Development, the Human Services, and Children and Families; the Secretary of Higher Education; the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission; and 17

members appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to the committee substitute, the duties of the task force include:

- examining current data on disconnected youth;
- researching programs and initiatives addressing school disconnection;
- examining possible contributing factors for students leaving school;
- identifying effective ways to reduce the number of disconnected youth; and
- advising the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson on the task force's findings.

The committee substitute requires the task force to issue a final report to the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Governor, and the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

Additionally, the committee substitute requires the Governor to appear before a legislative reference committee if a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson is not appointed within one year after the effective date of this bill. Finally, the Commissioner of Education is required to appear before a legislative reference committee one year after the issuance of the final report of the School Disconnection Task Force.

As amended and reported by the committee, this committee substitute is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 398, also reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to change the membership of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force from including three public school district superintendents to including two public school district superintendents and one school principal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to base a salary of this position, the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill will report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3080

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 1, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 3080 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the Department of Education. The amended bill requires the office: to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts; recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school; and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

This amended bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school. The task force is required to, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, including the age, ethnicity, and gender of student dropouts, research, programs, and initiatives concerning student dropouts;

b. examine the reasons why students leave school, including possible contributing factors such as household income, cultural or language barriers, or being a child from a single parent household;

c. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of students who leave school prior to graduation and increase student engagement while in school;

d. develop mechanisms to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school; and

e. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support students in order to prevent them from leaving school.

The 18-member task force consists of the Commissioners of Education and Department of Corrections; two members of the Senate, one from each political party; two members of the General Assembly, one from each political party; one representative from the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation; three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban, and

rural school district; two presidents of New Jersey county colleges; two members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; two members employed at a high school in an urban school district with a high student dropout rate, one of whom will be a principal and one of whom will be a guidance counselor; and two teachers, one of whom will be employed in an urban school district with a high student dropout rate. The task force is to issue a final report to the Governor and to the Legislature containing its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to: 1) require that the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth address issues associated with the reenrollment of students and develop programs to facilitate the return of students to the classroom; 2) to include additional dropout factors to be considered by the task force, including the age, ethnicity, and gender of student dropouts, as well as potential dropout factors such as household income, cultural or language barriers, or being a child from a single parent household; 3) increase the task force to 18 members by including a representative from the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation; and 4) to make several technical changes.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 19, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably a committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 3080.

This committee substitute establishes the position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson and establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

This committee substitute establishes a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. The ombudsperson is to be appointed by the Governor, serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and report directly to the Commissioner of Education. Pursuant to the committee substitute, the duties of the ombudsperson include, but are not limited to:

- collaborating with school districts to develop and implement a Statewide strategic plan of action;
- collaborating with a variety of governmental agencies to address the challenges facing student dropouts;
- developing best practices consistent with the recommendations of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force; and
- advising the commissioner on ways to prevent students from disconnecting from school and strategies for reengaging students who have disconnected from school.

The committee substitute requires the ombudsperson to annually submit a report to the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Governor, and the Legislature.

This committee substitute also establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force." The task force consists of 25 members including: the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson, who will serve as the chair of the task force; the Commissioners of the Department of Education, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Children and Families; the Secretary of Higher Education; the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission; and 17 members appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to the committee substitute, the duties of the task force include, but are not limited to:

- examining current data on disconnected youth;

- researching programs and initiatives addressing school disconnection;
- examining possible contributing factors for students leaving school;
- identifying effective ways to reduce the number of disconnected youth; and
- advising the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson on the task force's findings.

The committee substitute requires the task force to issue a final report to the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Governor, and the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

Additionally, the committee substitute requires the Governor to appear before a legislative reference committee if a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson is not appointed within one year after the effective date of this bill. Finally, the Commissioner of Education is required to appear before a legislative reference committee one year after the issuance of the final report of the School Disconnection Task Force.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to base a salary of this position, the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill will report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 3080

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: MARCH 20, 2023

This bill establishes the position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson and establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

These Senate floor amendments change the membership of the task force from 25 to 23 by reducing the number of formerly disconnected individuals from two to one and reducing the number of community-based organizations from two to one. The amendments also modify the responsibilities of the task force to include conducting a landscape analysis of school disconnection in the State, and researching the potential to create an early warning system to prevent disconnection from school. Under the amendments, the task force would be required to submit its final report no later than one year after the task force organizes. The amendments remove the requirement for the Governor or a designee to appear before Senate or Assembly committees if the Governor has not appointed a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson within one year of the effective date of the act.

These Senate floor amendments also add an appropriation of $200,000 to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

Finally, the amendments modify certain terminology, including changing guidance counselor to school counselor, changing students to individuals, and changing a reference to single parent households to parental engagement.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 11, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.

Type of Impact: Potential State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Annual
Potential State Cost Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs to the Department of Education. The potential increase in State costs would be dependent on decisions made by the Commissioner of Education with respect to the number of people who would staff the newly created Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth and the corresponding salary ranges.

- The bill may also cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the Department of Education. The bill requires the office to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts, recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school, and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

The bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs to the Department of Education. The potential increase in State costs would be dependent on decisions made by the Commissioner of Education with respect to the number of people who would staff the newly created Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth and the corresponding salary ranges. It is also possible that the commissioner would staff the office by reallocating current personnel, thereby avoiding a potential increase in expenditures. While the OLS does not have the informational basis by which to forecast the salary range of employees in a new Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth, the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559.

The bill may cause an additional minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

Section:	*Education*
Analyst:	*Christopher Myles* *Senior Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Thomas Koenig* *Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 1, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

Type of Impact: State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	**Annual**
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson.

- The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson in the Department of Education. The ombudsperson would be appointed by the Governor but would report directly to the Commissioner of Education. The ombudsperson would serve for a term of four years and would be responsible for implementing a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent students aged 16 to 24 from disconnecting from school, addressing the need for the reengagement of disconnected youth, and developing strategies to increase reengagement.

The bill also establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force," the purpose of which would be to analyze the causes of school disconnection for high school students and students at public institutions of higher education, recommend best practices for reducing school disconnection to school districts and public institutions of higher education, and support the development of strategies to reengage disconnected youth. The task force is required under the bill to issue a final report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to estimate a salary for this position, the office notes for informational purposes that the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill is to report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

Section:	*Education*
Analyst:	*Christopher Myles* *Senior Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Thomas Koenig* *Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 2, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Annual
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson.

- The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson in the Department of Education. The ombudsperson would be appointed by the Governor but would report directly to the Commissioner of Education. The ombudsperson would serve for a term of four years and would be responsible for implementing a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent students aged 16 to 24 from disconnecting from school, addressing the

need for the reengagement of disconnected youth, and developing strategies to increase reengagement.

The bill also establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force," the purpose of which would be to analyze the causes of school disconnection for high school students and students at public institutions of higher education, recommend best practices for reducing school disconnection to school districts and public institutions of higher education, and support the development of strategies to reengage disconnected youth. The task force is required under the bill to issue a final report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to estimate a salary for this position, the office notes for informational purposes that the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill is to report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

Section:	*Revenue, Finance, and Appropriations*
Analyst:	*Christopher Myles* *Senior Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Thomas Koenig* *Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, No. 3080

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force"; appropriates $200,000.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	**Annual**
State Cost Increase	At least $200,000

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an increase in State costs of at least $200,000 annually. The increase will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson.

- The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

- The bill appropriates $200,000 to implement the provisions of the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson in the Department of Education. The ombudsperson would be appointed by the Governor but would report directly to the Commissioner of Education. The ombudsperson would serve for a term of four years and would be responsible for implementing a Statewide strategic

plan of action to prevent individuals aged 16 to 24 from disconnecting from school, addressing the need for the reengagement of disconnected youth, and developing strategies to increase reengagement.

The bill also establishes the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force, the purpose of which would be to analyze the causes of school disconnection for individuals from high schools and public institutions of higher education, recommend best practices for reducing school disconnection to school districts and public institutions of higher education, and support the development of strategies to reengage disconnected youth. The task force is required under the bill to issue a final report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than twelve months after the task force organizes.

The bill appropriates $200,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Education to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will lead to an increase in State costs of at least $200,000 annually. The increase will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to estimate a salary for this position, the office notes for informational purposes that the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," was $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill is to report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

The bill provides an appropriation of $200,000 to implement the provisions of the bill, which may be sufficient to cover the costs of implementing the bill, depending primarily on the salary set for the ombudsperson.

Section:	*Education*
Analyst:	*Abigail Chambers* *Associate Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Thomas Koenig* *Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 398

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO
District 28 (Essex)
Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN
District 34 (Essex and Passaic)
Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER
District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Simonsen, McClellan, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Atkins, Assemblywomen Matsikoudis, Haider, Assemblyman Sampson, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Umba

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2022)

AN ACT concerning students who drop out of school and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth. The purpose of the office shall be to develop a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent students from dropping out of school, address the need for the reenrollment of student dropouts, and develop strategies to increase reenrollment.

b. The Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth, in consultation with the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall at a minimum:

(1) collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts;

(2) develop and recommend to school districts programs to prevent students from dropping out of school; and

c. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

(1) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(2) the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(3) two members of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Senate President;

d. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a person to head the office who shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his entire time to the performance of those duties.

2. a. There is established the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school.

b. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

(1) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(2) the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;

(3) two members of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Senate President;

(4) two members of the General Assembly, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and

(5) eleven members appointed by the Governor, who shall include: three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban, and rural school district; two presidents of New Jersey county colleges; two members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; two members employed at a high school in an urban school district with a high student drop out rate, one of whom shall be a principal and one of whom shall be a guidance counselor; and two teachers, one of whom shall be employed in an urban school district with a high student drop out rate.

c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task force.

d. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

e. The Department of Education shall provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

3. It shall be the duty of the task force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation and to recommend best practices for reducing the student dropout rate and increasing the number of students who re-enroll in school. The task force shall, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, research, programs, and initiatives concerning student dropouts;

b. examine reasons why students leave school;

c. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of students who leave school prior to graduation and increase student engagement while in school;

d. develop mechanisms to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school; and

e. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support students in order to prevent them from leaving school.

4. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

b. The task force shall expire on the 30th day after the issuance of its final report.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the Department of Education. The bill requires the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth: to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts; recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school; and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

This bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school. The task force will, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, research, programs, and initiatives concerning student dropouts;

b. examine the reasons why students leave school;

c. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of students who leave school prior to graduation and increase student engagement while in school;

d. develop mechanisms to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school; and

e. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support students in order to prevent them from leaving school.

The 17-member task force will include the Commissioners of Education and Department of Corrections; two members of the Senate, one from each political party; two members of the General Assembly, one from each political party; three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban, and rural school district; two presidents of New Jersey county colleges; two members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; two members employed at a high school in an urban school district with a high student drop out

rate, one of whom will be a principal and one of whom will be a guidance counselor; and two teachers, one of whom will be employed in an urban school district with a high student drop out rate. The task force will issue a final report to the Governor and to the Legislature containing its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 398

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 2022

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 398 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the Department of Education. The amended bill requires the office: to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts; recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school; and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

The amended bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school. The task force is required to, at a minimum:

a. examine current data, including the age, ethnicity, and gender of student dropouts, research, programs, and initiatives concerning student dropouts;

b. examine the reasons why students leave school, including possible contributing factors such as household income, cultural or language barriers, or being a child from a single parent household;

c. identify effective ways for school districts to reduce the number of students who leave school prior to graduation and increase student engagement while in school;

d. develop mechanisms to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school; and

e. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for school districts to support students in order to prevent them from leaving school.

The 18-member task force consists of the Commissioners of Education and Corrections; two members of the Senate, one from each political party; two members of the General Assembly, one from each political party; one representative from the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation; three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban, and rural school

district; two presidents of New Jersey county colleges; two members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; two members employed at a high school in an urban school district with a high student dropout rate, one of whom will be a principal and one of whom will be a guidance counselor; and two teachers, one of whom will be employed in an urban school district with a high student dropout rate. The task force is to issue a final report to the Governor and to the Legislature containing its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

1) require that the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth address issues associated with the reenrollment of students and develop programs to facilitate the return of students to the classroom;

2) to include additional dropout factors to be considered by the task force, including the age, ethnicity, and gender of student dropouts, as well as potential dropout factors such as household income, cultural or language barriers, or being a child from a single parent household;

3) increase the task force to 18 members by including a representative from the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation; and

4) to make several technical changes.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 398

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 398 ACS.

This committee substitute establishes the position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson and establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

The committee substitute specifically establishes a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. The ombudsperson is to be appointed by the Governor, serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and report directly to the Commissioner of Education. Pursuant to the committee substitute, the duties of the ombudsperson include:

- collaborating with school districts to develop and implement a Statewide strategic plan of action;
- collaborating with a variety of governmental agencies to address the challenges facing student dropouts;
- developing best practices consistent with the recommendations of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force; and
- advising the commissioner on ways to prevent students from disconnecting from school and strategies for reengaging students who have disconnected from school.

The committee substitute requires the ombudsperson to annually submit a report summarizing services provided, progress in reducing disconnected youth, and recommendations on services and support for disconnected youth to the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Governor, and the Legislature.

This committee substitute also establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force." The task force consists of 25 members including: the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson, who will serve as the chair of the task force; the Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Corrections, Labor and Workforce Development, Human Services, and Children and Families; the Secretary of Higher Education; the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission; and 17 members appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to the committee substitute, the duties of the task force include:

- examining current data on disconnected youth;

- researching programs and initiatives addressing school disconnection;
- examining possible contributing factors for students leaving school;
- identifying effective ways to reduce the number of disconnected youth; and
- advising the Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson on the task force's findings.

The committee substitute requires the task force to issue a final report to the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Governor, and the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

Additionally, the committee substitute requires the Governor to appear before a legislative reference committee if a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson is not appointed within one year after the effective date of this bill. Finally, the Commissioner of Education is required to appear before a legislative reference committee one year after the issuance of the final report of the School Disconnection Task Force.

As reported by the committee, this committee substitute is identical to the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 3080, as amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to base a salary of this position, the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill will report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 398

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 11, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.

Type of Impact: Potential State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	**Annual**
Potential State Cost Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs to the Department of Education. The potential increase in State costs would be dependent on decisions made by the Commissioner of Education with respect to the number of people who would staff the newly created Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth and the corresponding salary ranges.

- The bill may also cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the Department of Education. The bill requires the office to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts, recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school, and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

The bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs to the Department of Education. The potential increase in State costs would be dependent on decisions made by the Commissioner of Education with respect to the number of people who would staff the newly created Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth and the corresponding salary ranges. It is also possible that the commissioner would staff the office by reallocating current personnel, thereby avoiding a potential increase in expenditures. While the OLS does not have the informational basis by which to forecast the salary range of employees in a new Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth, the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559.

The bill may cause an additional minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

Section:	*Education*
Analyst:	*Christopher Myles* *Senior Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Thomas Koenig* *Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

ASSEMBLY, No. 398

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 2, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force."

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Annual
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson.

- The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson in the Department of Education. The ombudsperson would be appointed by the Governor but would report directly to the Commissioner of Education. The ombudsperson would serve for a term of four years and would be responsible for implementing a Statewide strategic plan of action to prevent students aged 16 to 24 from disconnecting from school, addressing the need for the reengagement of disconnected youth, and developing strategies to increase reengagement.

The bill also establishes the "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force," the purpose of which would be to analyze the causes of school disconnection for high school students and students at public institutions of higher education, recommend best practices for reducing school disconnection to school districts and public institutions of higher education, and support the development of strategies to reengage disconnected youth. The task force is required under the bill to issue a final report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs. The increase in State costs will primarily stem from expenditures related to the salary and benefits of the newly-created position of a Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson. While the OLS does not have information on which to estimate a salary for this position, the office notes for informational purposes that the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the Department of Education, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2022 Workforce Profile," is $93,559. Given that the ombudsperson position established in the bill is to report directly to the Commissioner of Education, it is likely that the salary for the position will exceed that of the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the department.

The bill may cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the School Disconnection Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. There may be additional expenditures associated with the department providing staffing services to the task force.

Section:	*Revenue, Finance, and Appropriations*
Analyst:	*Christopher Myles* *Senior Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Thomas Koenig* *Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

01/16/2024

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

SCS for S-281/ACS for A-3791 (Greenstein, Turner/Sumter, Reynolds-Jackson) – w/STATEMENT - Concerns automatic fire sprinkler systems within newly constructed townhou
Copy of Statement

S-539wGR/A-2140 (Ruiz, Pou/Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Mosquera) - Permits online purchase of eligible foods using WIC funds and use of WIC funds for grocery delivery ch

S-659/A-2014 (Oroho, Greenstein/Conaway, Wirths, Umba) - "Manufacturing in Higher Education Act"; requires various State entities to promote manufacturing career pathways students and provides assistance to manufacturing industry

S-1110/A-3936 (Polistina, Singleton/Guardian, Swift, McClellan) - Authorizes CRDA to finance transportation projects between Atlantic City Airport and Atlantic City Tourism Dis

S-1662/A-3526 (Ruiz, Codey/Lampitt, Benson, Sauickie) - Requires NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council to prepare report regarding suicide prevention instruction in pu schools

S-1680wGR/A-2257 (Pou, Ruiz/Murphy, Quijano, Wimberly) - Designates each community college in State as provider of allowable services under SNAP employment and trainin program

S-2076/ACS for A-3319 (Zwicker, Greenstein/McKnight, Lampitt) - Establishes "Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition Year Pilot Program" in Department of Education

S-2535wGR/A-4048 (Polistina, Pou/Benson, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter) - Requires health benefits coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants

S-2841/A-4292 (Scutari, Bramnick/Carter) - Raises minimum amount of liability coverage for commercial motor vehicles and autocabs

SCS forS-3080/ACS for-398 (Ruiz, Burgess/Caputo, Giblin, Tucker) - Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force"; appropriates $200,000

S-3102/A-4715 (Smith, Singleton/Stanley, Benson) - Establishes uptime requirement for electric vehicle charging station incentive programs

S-3176/A-4760 (Greenstein, Smith/Swain, Haider, Tully) - Requires DEP and Drinking Water Quality Institute to perform study concerning regulation and treatment of perfluoroalk and polyfluoroalkyl substances

SCS for S-3632 and 3649w/GR/ACS for A-1948 (Johnson, Cryan/Haider, Conaway, Quijano) - Requires labeling of non-flushable disposable wipes

S-3758/A-5343 (Cryan/Karabinchak) - Changes deadline for unaffiliated mail-in voters to declare their political party before primary election

S-3837/A-5438 (Pou, Cruz-Perez/Pintor Marin, Wimberly) - Clarifies process for administrative appropriations to UEZs

S-3897/A-5578 (Ruiz, Sarlo/Jasey, Carter, Reynolds-Jackson) - Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award annual summer tuition aid grants

S-4040/A-5881 (Polistina, Lagana/Tully, Guardian, Swift) - Concerns jurisdiction and operations of regional municipal courts

S-4084/A-5851 (Ruiz, Cruz-Perez/Moriarty, Calabrese, Moen) - Concerns temporary registration certificates and license plates

S-4130/A-5849 (Codey/Jasey, Tucker) - Special legislation to change name of "Township of South Orange Village" to "South Orange Village"; changes titles of certain municipal officials; permits nonpartisan municipal elections to be moved to November; permits stipend for governing body members

S-4206/A-5856 (Sarlo/Calabrese) - Changes number of signatures required on primary election petition to nominate certain municipal candidates in certain municipalities

S-4209/A-5879 (Sarlo/Pintor Marin) - Eliminates vote on school budgets for Type II school districts in April elections, except for separate proposals to spend above cap

S-4268/A-5911 (Scutari/Danielsen) - Permits certain special State officers to represent cannabis businesses

A-203/S-2884 (Rooney, Benson, Caputo/A.M. Bucco) - Authorizes creation of special license plates commemorating horse as State animal

A-1100/S-995 (Calabrese, Mukherji, McKnight/Ruiz, Stack) - Requires entities to remove abandoned lines and mark information on certain lines

A-1107/S-770 (Chaparro, Murphy, Mukherji/Pou, Beach) - Directs Chief Technology Officer to conduct study on impacts of redacting handwritten signatures published on State websites; allows for protocols for such redactions to be established by rules and regulations

ACS for A-1255/SS for S-1794 (Stanley, Conaway, Benson/Gopal, Singer) - Updates requirements and standards for authorization and prior authorization of health care services

A-1727/S-3300 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Stanfield, Ruiz) - Requires Attorney General to perform outreach and provide services to victims of human trafficking under certain circumstances

A-1729/S-3550 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight/Greenstein, Ruiz) - Requires AG to address human trafficking in underserved communities

A-1755/S-2505 (McKeon, Calabrese, Conaway/Smith, Greenstein) - Requires installation of operational automatic rain sensor or smart sprinkler as condition of sale of certain re properties, and on certain commercial, retail, and industrial properties and common interest communities within specified timeframes

A-2146wGR/S-855 (Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Sumter/Singleton, Beach) - Creates State business assistance program to establish contracting agency procurement goals fo socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises

A-2581/S-2503 (Lampitt, Park/Beach) - Provides that certain cosmetology and hairstyling courses may be taught using distance learning technology

A-3142/S-1564 (Moen, Moriarty, Benson/Singleton, Corrado) - Authorizes grants to purchase and rehabilitate abandoned homes for homeless veterans

A-3211/S-2302 (Speight, Haider, Swain/Gopal, Ruiz) - Establishes "New Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act"

A-3980/S-2706 (Speight, McKnight, Atkins/Zwicker, Turner) - Grants child placed in resource family care and resource family parents the right to be notified when case manager

supervisor is assigned to child; grants child in resource family care right to be notified of certain property and benefits

A-4033wGR/S-2657 (Coughlin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Ruiz) - Extends deadline for completion of school district's annual audit

A-4049/S-3495 (McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson/Vitale, Johnson) - Provides for presumptive eligibility for home and community-based services and services provided thr program of all-inclusive care for the elderly under Medicaid

A-4105/S-4202 (Lopez, Jimenez, Quijano/Vitale, Turner) - Establishes Interagency Council on Homelessness

A-4183/S-4264 (Haider/Singleton) - Concerns local unit filing requirement for certain shared services agreements

A-4212/S-2762 (Pintor Marin, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Ruiz, Cunningham) - Establishes Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey at Thomas Edison State University

A-4337/S-4156 (Conaway, Atkins, Rooney/Singleton, Pou) - Requires Department of Health to provide information to Statewide 2-1-1 telephone system regarding the location of disposal sites for hypodermic syringes and needles and prescription drugs

ACS for A-4496/SCS for S-3247 (Coughlin, Lampitt, Karabinchak, Wimberly/Zwicker, Greenstein) - Revises various provisions of law governing construction of school facilities projects and operations of New Jersey Schools Development Authority; establishes "Charter School and Renaissance School Project Facilities Loan Program" in EDA

A-4522/S-3234 (Moen, McKnight, Quijano/Singer, Singleton) - Requires certain disclosures by sellers of single-family homes with solar panels installed

A-4691/S-1530 (Swain, DeAngelo, Speight/Greenstein, Zwicker) - Requires hazard mitigation plans to include climate change-related threat assessments and hazard prevention mitigation strategies

A-4723/S-2740 (McKeon, Moriarty, Rooney/Codey, Scutari) - Requires motor vehicle dealer to offer to delete personal information in motor vehicles in certain situations

A-4791/S-3184 (Kennedy, Haider, McKeon/Diegnan, Sarlo) - Establishes "Resiliency and Environmental System Investment Charge Program"

ACS for A-4794/S-3224 (Benson, Mukherji/Singleton, Turner) - Requires request for proposal to establish demonstration projects to develop electric vehicle charging depots ser by distributed energy resource charging centers for certain electric vehicle use

A-4814/S-1023 (Moen, Wimberly/Singleton, Gopal) - Removes expected family contribution from calculation of financial need under circumstances in which public institutions o higher education may reduce student's institutional financial aid

ACS for A-4821 and 4823wGR/S-3283 (Karabinchak, Conaway, Schaer/Greenstein, Zwicker) - Directs DEP to take certain actions concerning identification and testing of microplastics in drinking water, and requires DEP and BPU to study and promote use of microplastics removal technologies

A-4955/S-3531 (S. Kean, Thomson/Singer, Gopal) - Designates portion of State Highway Route 71 as "John Tarantino Highway"

A-5094/S-3476 (Spearman/Beach, Greenstein) - Concerns licensing of security officer companies

A-5227/S-3662 (Danielsen, Space/Smith, Oroho) - Expands eligibility for "fishing buddy license" fee

A-5285/SCS for S-3708 (Greenwald, Haider, Lopez/Greenstein, A.M. Bucco) - Requires copies of certain law enforcement records to be provided to victims of domestic violenc upon request

A-5293/S-3746 (Greenwald, McKnight, Rooney/Gopal, Ruiz) - Concerns New Jersey Civic Information Consortium

A-5311/S-3061 (Verrelli, McKnight, Matsikoudis/Stanfield, Turner) - Enters New Jersey into Counseling Compact

A-5391/S-3765 (DeAngelo/Diegnan, Corrado) - Imposes conditions on drivers approaching disabled vehicles

A-5412/S-3850 (Greenwald, Swain, Jasey/Gopal, Singer) - Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing

A-5416wGR/S-3883 (Wimberly, Giblin, Haider/Greenstein, Turner) - Requires State Board of Education to authorize alternate route to expedite teacher certification of persons employed as paraprofessionals in school districts

A-5442/S-3793 (Karabinchak, Conaway, McKeon/Smith, Greenstein) - Directs BPU to conduct study to determine feasibility, marketability, and costs of implementing large-scale geothermal heat pump systems in State

A-5462/S-3867 (Coughlin, McKnight, Speight/Vitale, Turner) - Revises law establishing Office of Food Security Advocate, and establishes certain conditions for use of monies appropriated to emergency food organizations

ACS for A-5495/SCS for S-3846 (Danielsen/Scutari, A.M. Bucco) - Clarifies types of firearms allowed to be carried or transported while hunting

A-5516/S-4047 (Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli, Conaway/Burgess, Turner) - Requires certain health care professionals to undergo bias training

A-5565/S-3971 (S. Kean, Thomson/Gopal) - Provides that 10-year term does not apply to lease of certain municipal properties unless they are waterfront properties or related to waterfront concessions

A-5567/S-3807 (Torrissi, Calabrese/A.M. Bucco, Sarlo) - Extends period of usefulness of fire engines for bonding purposes from 10 to 20 years; eliminates exclusion of passeng cars and station wagons

A-5582/S-3781 (Swain, Simonsen/Lagana, Cryan) - Establishes grant program for NJ YouthBuild programs through DOLWD; makes appropriation

A-5610wGR/S-3954 (Greenwald, Spearman, Chaparro/Beach, A.M. Bucco) - Revises penalties for possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons

A-5748/S-4166 (Spearman, Moen, Moriarty/Cruz-Perez, Madden) - Amends definition of "participating county" under County Option Hospital Fee Program

A-5755/S-4183 (Carter, Sumter, Wimberly, Quijano/Scutari, Singleton) - Enhances notice requirements and occupancy restrictions for hotels and multiple dwellings following determination of potentially hazardous condition

A-5799/S-1472 (Moen, Moriarty/Beach, Stack) - Authorizes DOT to establish and administer toll collection and enforcement system on behalf of NJ toll authorities and to enter i reciprocal agreements for enforcement of toll violations with toll authorities from other states

A-5806/S-4165 (Moriarty, Sauickie/Greenstein, Oroho) - Appropriates $48 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to DEP for State acquisition of lands for recreatic and conservation purposes, including Blue Acres projects, and Green Acres Program administrative costs

A-5807/S-4138 (Freiman/Johnson, Schepisi) - Appropriates $58 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects

A-5808/S-4135 (Park, Freiman, Lopez/Beach, Turner) - Appropriates $15,564,293 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to NJ Historic Trust for grants for certain historic preservation projects and associated administrative expenses

A-5809/S-4097 (Swain, Lopez, Sauickie/Zwicker, Gopal) - Amends lists of projects eligible to receive loans for environmental infrastructure projects from NJ Infrastructure Bank FY 2024

A-5810/S-4098 (Sampson, Sauickie, Lopez/Greenstein, Stanfield) - Amends lists of environmental infrastructure projects approved for long-term funding by DEP under FY 2024 environmental infrastructure funding program

A-5828/S-4201 (Lopez/Vitale) - Authorizes State Treasurer to sell as surplus certain real property and improvements in Township of Woodbridge in Middlesex County

A-5835/S-4134 (Greenwald, Lampitt/Beach, Turner) - Authorizes regional authority to develop and operate regional rehabilitation and reentry center

A-5836/S-4212 (DeAngelo, Sumter, Wimberly/Gopal, Greenstein) - Makes supplemental appropriation of $650,000 to New Jersey Division of State Police for trooper recruitment retention

A-5910/S-4266 (Egan/Codey) - Increases annual salary of certain public employees and officers

AJR-200/SJR-138 (Park, Freiman, Calabrese/Lagana) - Designates November 22 of each year as Kimchi Day

Governor Murphy pocket vetoed the following bills:
S-2989/A-1739 (Pou, Singer/McKeon, Quijano, Flynn) - Makes certain for-profit debt adjusters eligible for licensing to conduct business in State

S-3172/A-4689 (Gopal, Turner/Lampitt, Matsikoudis, McKnight) - Establishes teacher certification route for candidates with Montessori teaching credentials

S-3287/ACS for A-4852 and 1170 (Turner/Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Dunn, Wimberly, Calabrese, Spearman, Verrilli) - Requires institutions of higher education to maintain supp develop policy governing use of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for opioid overdose emergencies

A-1476/S-930 (Benson, Dancer/Holzapfel, Diegnan) - Exempts certain motor vehicles that are owned by certain nutrition programs and certain nonprofit organizations that offer social services from motor vehicle registration fees

A-3642/S-665 (Wirths, Murphy, Benson, Oroho/Greenstein) - Requires MVC to place designation on motor vehicle's registration information indicating registrant is deaf

A-3945/S-1660 (Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter/Ruiz, Singleton) - Establishes "Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program"; appropriates $95,000

A-4177/S-2478 (Mosquera, Swain, McKnight, Tucker, Dunn/Ruiz, Vitale) - Extends duration of law requiring certain provider subsidy payments for child care services be based o enrollment

A-4396/S-2927 (Lampitt, Jasey, Caputo/Codey) - Establishes timelines for review and approval by Commissioner of Education of annual certified audits submitted by approved private schools for students with disabilities

A-4621/S-3156 (Mosquera, Greenwald, Swain/Madden) - Requires issuance of report on certain information and data on processing of applications for professional and occupa licenses and mandates review of training and call intake in Division of Consumer Affairs.

A-4740/S-2970 (Mukherji, DeAngelo, McKnight/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Provides employee access to employee's employment records on file with DOLWD

A-5294/S-1825 (Greenwald, Swain, Rooney/Steinhardt, Sarlo, Doherty) - Exempts sales of investment metal bullion and investment coins from sales and use tax

A-5893/S-4228 (Karabinchak, Calabrese, Sauickie/Gopal, Sarlo) - Extends annual horse racing purse subsidies through State fiscal year 2029