

18A:44-6

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2000 **CHAPTER:** 139
NJSA: 18A:44-6 (Office on Early Childhood Education established in DOE)
BILL NO: A2123 (Substituted for S1167)
SPONSOR(S): Wolfe and Malone
DATE INTRODUCED: February 28, 2000
COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Education
 SENATE: Education
AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes
DATES OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** May 25, 2000; Re-enacted October 5, 2000
 SENATE: June 26, 2000; Re-enacted October 23, 2000
DATE OF APPROVAL: November 1, 2000

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (2nd reprint)

A2123

SPONSORS STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	Yes	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:		Yes	
	ASSEMBLY:	Yes	
	SENATE:	Yes	
FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:		No	
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:		Yes	5/30/00 7/17/00

S1167

SPONSORS STATEMENT:	(Begins on page 3 of original bill)	Yes	
	Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A2123		
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:		Yes	
	ASSEMBLY:	No	
	SENATE:	Yes	
	Identical to Assembly Statement To A2123		
FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:		No	
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:		No	
VETO MESSAGE:		Yes	
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:		Yes	

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JOSEPH R. MALONE, III

District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the DOE.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing an Office of Early Childhood Education in the
2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 44 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: the enriched experience
9 provided by quality early childhood education programs and services
10 provides excellent preparation for success in school; studies have
11 shown that the positive benefits to children of quality early childhood
12 education programs outweigh the costs of providing these programs
13 and include an increase in employment, a decrease in welfare
14 dependence, a decrease in crime, and a decrease in other socially non-
15 desirable behaviors in the later adult life of children served; in light of
16 the importance of this issue, an Office of Early Childhood Education
17 should be statutorily established in the Department of Education to
18 focus on the States's initiatives to improve education for young
19 students.

20
21 2. a. There is established an Office of Early Childhood Education
22 in the Department of Education. The administrator and head of the
23 office shall be an assistant commissioner. The assistant commissioner
24 shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the
25 duties of the office and shall devote his entire time to the performance
26 of those duties.

27 b. The office shall be responsible for:

28 (1) setting required standards for early childhood education
29 programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood
30 Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs
31 for three- and four-year olds that emphasize the quality necessary to
32 meet children's needs, including but not limited to standards for
33 teacher qualifications, program design and facilities;

34 (2) identifying and disseminating information on model early
35 childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for
36 program quality;

37 (3) the coordination of early childhood programs and services
38 across State agencies;

39 (4) identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement
40 successful early childhood education programs based on a
41 comprehensive needs assessment conducted by each participating
42 district utilizing assessment criteria developed by the office in
43 consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood Education;

44 (5) providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in
45 implementing early childhood education programs;

46 (6) implementing the early childhood education components of the

1 May 21, 1998 order of the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v.
2 Burke, 153 N.J. 480 (1998);

3 (7) overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood
4 education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early
5 Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool
6 programs for three- and four-year olds; and

7 (8) providing an annual report to the Legislature and public on data
8 collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education
9 programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood
10 Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs
11 for three- and four-year olds, based on evaluation criteria developed
12 jointly with the Commission on Early Childhood Education.

13

14 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill establishes the Office of Early Childhood Education in the
20 Department of Education. The office will be responsible for: setting
21 required standards for early childhood education programs in the
22 Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and
23 all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-
24 year olds; identifying and disseminating information on model early
25 childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for
26 program quality; the coordination of early childhood programs and
27 services across State agencies; identifying the amount of funds
28 necessary to implement successful early childhood education programs
29 based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by each
30 participating district utilizing assessment criteria developed by the
31 office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood
32 Education; providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in
33 implementing early childhood education programs; implementing the
34 early childhood education components of the May 21, 1998 order of
35 the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke, 153 N.J. 480
36 (1998); overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood
37 education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early
38 Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool
39 programs for three- and four-year olds; and providing an annual report
40 to the Legislature and public on data collected regarding the
41 implementation of early childhood education programs in the Abbott
42 districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other
43 districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds.

44 The State Board of Education approved the creation of an Office
45 of Early Childhood Education in May, 1999. This bill would establish
46 the office pursuant to statute.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 23, 2000

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2123 with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes the Office of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education. The office will be responsible for: setting required standards for early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; identifying and disseminating information on model early childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for program quality; the coordination of early childhood programs and services across State agencies; identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement successful early childhood education programs based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds utilizing assessment criteria developed by the office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood Education which is established under companion legislation, Assembly Bill No. 2122 of 2000; providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in implementing early childhood education programs; implementing the early childhood education components of the May 21, 1998 and March 7, 2000 orders of the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke (Abbott V and Abbott VI); overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; and providing an annual report to the Legislature and public on data collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds.

The State Board of Education approved the creation of an Office of Early Childhood Education in May, 1999. This bill would establish

the office pursuant to statute.

The committee amended the bill to clarify the term, "participating district," and to insert reference to the March 7, 2000 order of the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke on early childhood education programs (Abbott VI).

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JOSEPH R. MALONE, III

District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Palaia and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the DOE.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on March 23, 2000, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/27/2000)

1 AN ACT establishing an Office of Early Childhood Education in the
2 Department of Education and supplementing chapter 44 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: the enriched experience
9 provided by quality early childhood education programs and services
10 provides excellent preparation for success in school; studies have
11 shown that the positive benefits to children of quality early childhood
12 education programs outweigh the costs of providing these programs
13 and include an increase in employment, a decrease in welfare
14 dependence, a decrease in crime, and a decrease in other socially non-
15 desirable behaviors in the later adult life of children served; in light of
16 the importance of this issue, an Office of Early Childhood Education
17 should be statutorily established in the Department of Education to
18 focus on the States's initiatives to improve education for young
19 students.

20

21 2. a. There is established an Office of Early Childhood Education
22 in the Department of Education. The administrator and head of the
23 office shall be an assistant commissioner. The assistant commissioner
24 shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the
25 duties of the office and shall devote his entire time to the performance
26 of those duties.

27 b. The office shall be responsible for:

28 (1) setting required standards for early childhood education
29 programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood
30 Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs
31 for three- and four-year olds that emphasize the quality necessary to
32 meet children's needs, including ¹ but not limited to ¹ standards for
33 teacher qualifications, program design and facilities;

34 (2) identifying and disseminating information on model early
35 childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for
36 program quality;

37 (3) the coordination of early childhood programs and services
38 across State agencies;

39 (4) identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement
40 successful early childhood education programs based on a
41 comprehensive needs assessment conducted by ¹[each participating

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 23, 2000.

- 1 district] Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program
2 Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three-
3 and four-year olds¹ utilizing assessment criteria developed by the
4 office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood
5 Education ¹established pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)
6 (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 2122 of
7 2000)¹ ;
8 (5) providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in
9 implementing early childhood education programs;
10 (6) implementing the early childhood education components of the
11 May 21, 1998 ¹[order] and March 7, 2000 orders¹ of the New Jersey
12 Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke, 153 N.J. 480 (1998) ¹ and
13 N.J. (2000) Docket # M-1336-98¹;
14 (7) overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood
15 education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early
16 Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool
17 programs for three- and four-year olds; and
18 (8) providing an annual report to the Legislature and public on data
19 collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education
20 programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood
21 Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs
22 for three- and four-year olds, based on evaluation criteria developed
23 jointly with the Commission on Early Childhood Education.
24
25 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

209th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 30, 2000

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the DOE
Type of Impact: Expenditure increase from the General Fund and Property Tax Relief Fund
Agencies Affected: Department of Education

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	FY 2000	FY 2001
General Fund	\$254,095	\$373,867
Property Tax Relief Fund	\$1,055,213	\$1,038,020
TOTAL	\$1,309,308	\$1,411,887

- ! The State Board of Education established the Office of Early Childhood Education in May of 1999 for the purpose of implementing the early childhood education components of the New Jersey Supreme Court's May 21, 1998 and March 7, 2000 orders in Abbott v. Burke. This bill would provide a statutory authorization for the creation of that office.
- ! In FY 2000, the Office of Early Childhood Education received an appropriation of \$1,309,308 to support ten employees and to conduct an Early Childhood Evaluation Study. In FY 2001, the recommended appropriation for the office is \$1,411,887, which represents a 7.8 percent or \$102,579 increase over the FY 2000 appropriation. The additional funds will support the hiring of two new employees and cost of living adjustments for current employees.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2123 of 2000 establishes the Office of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education. Under the bill's provisions, the office would be responsible for: setting required standards for early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool

programs for three- and four-year olds; identifying and disseminating information for model early childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for program quality; the coordination of early childhood programs and services across State agencies; identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement successful early childhood education programs based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds utilizing assessment criteria developed by the office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood Education which is established under companion legislation, Assembly Bill No. 2122 of 2000; providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in implementing early childhood education programs; implementing the early childhood education components of the May 21, 1998 and March 27, 2000 orders of the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke (Abbott V and Abbott VI); overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three and four-year olds; and providing an annual report to the Legislature and public on data collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three and four-year olds.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Early Childhood Education was created within the Department of Education in May of 1999 following approval by the State Board of Education. In FY 2000, the Office of Early Childhood Education received \$254,095 in Direct State Service funds for the salaries of nine employees and general operations support. The positions currently funded include an assistant commissioner, two educational program development specialists and a secretarial assistant. In addition, the Office of Early Childhood Education received \$1,055,213 in Abbott Parity Aid in FY 2000 to fund salaries for a manager, four additional educational program development specialists and to finance an Early Childhood Evaluation Study.

For FY 2001, the Office of Early Childhood Education estimates that the second year of its operation will cost approximately \$1,411,887, a 7.8 percent or \$102,579 increase over the FY 2000 appropriation. In FY 2001, it is recommended that the office be funded through a General Fund appropriation of \$373,867 and funds from the Property Tax Relief Fund in the amount of \$1,038,020. The increased cost in FY 2001 is based on the salary of two additional educational program development specialists and cost of living adjustments for current employees.

Section: *Education*

Analyst: *Cindy Grant*
Assistant Fiscal Analyst

Approved: *Alan R. Kooney*
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.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2000

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2123 (1R).

This bill establishes the Office of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education. The office will be responsible for: setting required standards for early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; identifying and disseminating information on model early childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for program quality; the coordination of early childhood programs and services across State agencies; identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement successful early childhood education programs based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds utilizing assessment criteria developed by the office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood Education which is established under companion legislation, Assembly Bill No. 2122 of 2000; providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in implementing early childhood education programs; implementing the early childhood education components of the May 21, 1998 and March 7, 2000 orders of the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke (Abbott V and Abbott VI); overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; and providing an annual report to the Legislature and public on data collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds.

The State Board of Education approved the creation of an Office of Early Childhood Education in May, 1999. This bill would establish the office pursuant to statute.

As reported, this bill is identical to S-1167 with Senate Education Committee amendments.

[CORRECTED COPY]
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
 [First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2123
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 17, 2000

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the DOE
Type of Impact: Expenditure increase from the General Fund and Property Tax Relief Fund
Agencies Affected: Department of Education

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	FY 2000	FY 2001
General Fund	No Additional Cost*	\$373,867
Property Tax Relief Fund		\$1,038,020
TOTAL	No Additional Cost*	\$1,411,887

! The bill would make permanent the creation of the Office of Early Childhood Education, established in May of 1999 for the purpose of implementing the early childhood education components of the New Jersey Supreme Court's May 21, 1998 and March 7, 2000 orders in Abbott v. Burke. ***Since the FY 2000 State Budget appropriated \$1,309,308 (\$254,095 from the General Fund and \$1,055,213 from the Property Tax Relief Fund) to support nine positions and to conduct an Early Childhood Evaluation Study, the bill would incur no additional State cost for this fiscal year.**

! In FY 2001, the recommended appropriation for the office is \$1,411,887, which represents a 7.8 percent or \$102,579 increase over the FY 2000 appropriation. The additional funds will support the hiring of two new employees and cost of living adjustments for current employees.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2123 (1R) of 2000 establishes the Office of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education. Under the bill's provisions, the office would be responsible for:

setting required standards for early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; identifying and disseminating information on model early childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for program quality; the coordination of early childhood programs and services across State agencies; identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement successful early childhood education programs based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds utilizing assessment criteria developed by the office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood Education which is established under companion legislation, Assembly Bill No. 2122 of 2000; providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in implementing early childhood education programs; implementing the early childhood education components of the May 21, 1998 and March 27, 2000 orders of the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v. Burke (Abbott V and Abbott VI); overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; and providing an annual report to the Legislature and public on data collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received; however, the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) fiscal analysis (below) is based on FY 2000 and FY 2001 budget information, supplemented by Department of Education personnel data.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Early Childhood Education was created within the Department of Education in May of 1999 following approval by the State Board of Education. In FY 2000, the Office of Early Childhood Education received \$254,095 in Direct State Service funds for the salaries of four employees and general operations support. The positions currently funded include an assistant commissioner, two educational program development specialists and a secretarial assistant. In addition, the Office of Early Childhood Education received \$1,055,213 in Abbott Parity Aid in FY 2000 to fund salaries for a manager, four additional educational program development specialists and to finance an Early Childhood Evaluation Study.

In FY 2001, the Office of Early Childhood Education estimates that the second year of its operation will cost approximately \$1,411,887, a 7.8 percent or \$102,579 increase over the FY 2000 appropriation. In FY 2001, it is recommended that the office be funded through a General Fund appropriation of \$373,867 and funds from the Property Tax Relief Fund in the amount of \$1,038,020. The increased cost in FY 2001 is based on the salary of two additional educational

program development specialists and cost of living adjustments for current employees.

Section: *Education*

Analyst: *Cindy Grant*
Assistant Fiscal Analyst

Approved: *Alan R. Kooney*
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.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JOSEPH R. MALONE, III

District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

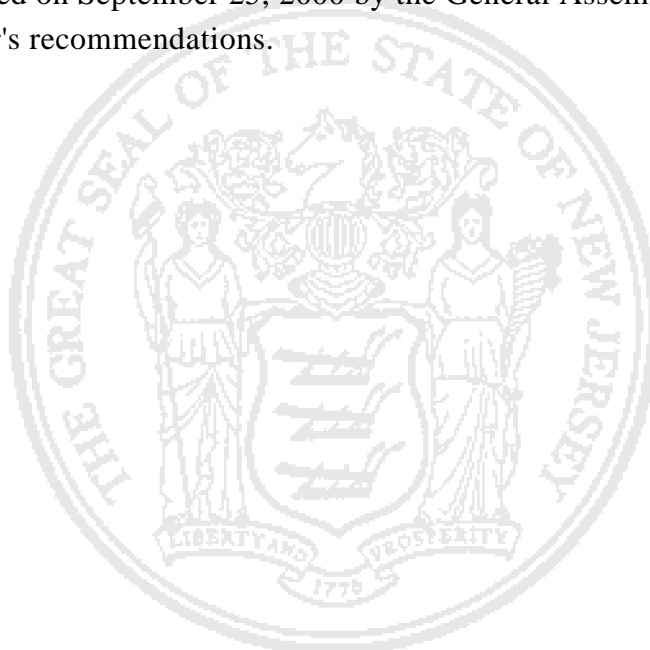
Senators Palaia, Turner and Conaway

SYNOPSIS

Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the DOE.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on September 25, 2000 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/6/2000)

1 AN ACT establishing ²[an Office] a Division² of Early Childhood
2 Education in the Department of Education and supplementing
3 chapter 44 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: the enriched experience
9 provided by quality early childhood education programs and services
10 provides excellent preparation for success in school; studies have
11 shown that the positive benefits to children of quality early childhood
12 education programs outweigh the costs of providing these programs
13 and include an increase in employment, a decrease in welfare
14 dependence, a decrease in crime, and a decrease in other socially non-
15 desirable behaviors in the later adult life of children served; in light of
16 the importance of this issue, ²[an Office] a Division² of Early
17 Childhood Education should be statutorily established in the
18 Department of Education to focus on the States's initiatives to improve
19 education for young students.

20
21 2. a. There is established ²[an Office] a Division² of Early
22 Childhood Education in the Department of Education. The
23 administrator and head of the ²[office shall be an assistant
24 commissioner. The assistant commissioner] division² shall be a person
25 qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the
26 ²[office] division² and shall devote his entire time to the performance
27 of those duties.

28 b. The ²[office] division² shall be responsible for:

29 (1) setting required standards for early childhood education
30 programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood
31 Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs
32 for three- and four-year olds that emphasize the quality necessary to
33 meet children's needs, including ^{1,1} but not limited to ^{1,1} standards for
34 teacher qualifications, program design and facilities;

35 (2) identifying and disseminating information on model early
36 childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for
37 program quality;

38 (3) the coordination of early childhood programs and services
39 ²[across State agencies] in consultation with the Department of
40 Human Services²;

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 23, 2000.

² Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations September 25, 2000.

1 (4) identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement
2 successful early childhood education programs based on a
3 comprehensive needs assessment ²[conducted by ¹[each participating
4 district] Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program
5 Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three-
6 and four-year olds¹ utilizing assessment criteria developed by the
7 office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood
8 Education ¹established pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 2122 of
10 2000)¹² ;

11 (5) providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in
12 implementing early childhood education programs;

13 (6) implementing the early childhood education ²[components of
14 the May 21, 1998 ¹[order] and March 7, 2000]² orders¹ of the New
15 Jersey Supreme Court ²[in Abbott v. Burke, 153 N.J. 480 (1998) ¹
16 and N.J. (2000) Docket # M-1336-98¹]²;

17 (7) overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood
18 education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early
19 Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool
20 programs for three- and four-year olds; and

21 (8) providing ², in consultation with the Department of Human
22 Services and the Abbott Implementation Advisory Council,² an annual
23 report to the Legislature and public on ²[data collected regarding the
24 implementation of]² early childhood education ²[programs in the
25 Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and
26 all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-
27 year olds, based on evaluation criteria developed jointly with the
28 Commission on Early Childhood Education]².

29

30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2123
(First Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2123 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

A. Summary of Bill

This bill establishes the Office of Early Childhood Education ("Office") in the Department of Education. The Office would be responsible for setting required standards for early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid ("ECPA") and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year-olds. In addition, the Office is charged with identifying and disseminating information on model early childhood education programs and coordinating early childhood programs and services between State agencies. The Office would identify the funding level necessary to implement early childhood education programs based on a needs assessment conducted by the Abbott districts, ECPA districts and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year-olds. In addition, the Office would provide assistance, as needed, to school districts in implementing early childhood education programs, implement the early childhood education components of the New Jersey Supreme Court's Abbott v. Burke decisions and oversee the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood education programs. Finally, the Office would provide an annual report to the Legislature and public on data collected regarding the implementation of early childhood education programs.

B. Recommended Action

I commend the sponsors of this legislation for their commitment to early childhood education. I share this commitment to our children, and support the goals of this legislation. Nonetheless, I must return this legislation with my recommendations for reconsideration, because it would create an office to perform the same functions as an office recently created by my Administration.

In May of 1999, the Department of Education recommended, and the State Board

of Education ("State Board") approved, the creation of the Division of Early Childhood Education ("Division"). This Division currently performs the functions of the Office created by this legislation. I recommend, therefore, that the existing Division created by the State Board should be set forth in statute, rather than establishing a new office to perform a similar function. In addition, I recommend that the administrator of the Division not be designated an assistant commissioner. Existing law limits the total number of assistant commissioners that can be appointed; therefore, this determination should be left to the discretion of the Commissioner of Education.

Further, I recommend the deletion of the provision that requires early childhood education program needs to be identified by the Abbott districts, ECPA districts and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year-olds. These districts play a critical role in identifying program needs. To ensure that there is an equitable distribution of State resources, however, the determination of program needs must be made by the Department of Education. Finally, in order to recognize and fully utilize the collaborative process between the Departments of Education and Human Services in the implementation of early childhood care and education policies, I recommend that the Division coordinate early childhood programs and services in consultation with the Department of Human Services. Lastly, I recommend that the Division prepare its annual report jointly with the Department of Human Services and the Abbott Implementation Advisory Council created pursuant to Executive Order No. 113, rather than the Commission on Early Childhood Education.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2123 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Title, Line 1:</u>	Delete "an Office" replace with "a Division"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 16:</u>	Delete "an Office" replace with "a Division"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 21:</u>	Delete "an Office" replace with "a Division"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 23:</u>	Delete "office" replace with "division" delete "shall be an assistant commissioner. The assistant

commissioner"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 25: Delete "office" replace with "division"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 27: Delete "office" replace with "division"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 38: Delete "across State agencies" insert "in consultation with the Department of Human Services"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 41: After "assessment" delete "conducted by"

Page 3, Section 2, Lines 1-6: Delete in its entirety

Page 3, Section 2, Line 7: Delete "2000"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 10: Delete "components of the"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 11: Delete "May 21, 1998 and March 7, 2000"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 12: Delete "in Abbott v. Burke, 153 N.J. 480 (1998) and"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 13: Delete "N.J. (2000) Docket # M-1336-98"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 18: After "providing" insert ", in consultation with the Department of Human Services and the Abbott Implementation Advisory Council," delete "data"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 19: Delete "collected regarding the implementation of" after "education" insert "."

Page 3, Section 2, Line 20-23: Delete in their entirety.

Respectfully,

/s/ Christine Todd Whitman

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Robert E. Fabricant

Chief Counsel to the Governor

P.L. 2000, CHAPTER 139, *approved November 1, 2000*
Assembly, No. 2123 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing ²[an Office] a Division² of Early Childhood
2 Education in the Department of Education and supplementing
3 chapter 44 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: the enriched experience
9 provided by quality early childhood education programs and services
10 provides excellent preparation for success in school; studies have
11 shown that the positive benefits to children of quality early childhood
12 education programs outweigh the costs of providing these programs
13 and include an increase in employment, a decrease in welfare
14 dependence, a decrease in crime, and a decrease in other socially non-
15 desirable behaviors in the later adult life of children served; in light of
16 the importance of this issue, ²[an Office] a Division² of Early
17 Childhood Education should be statutorily established in the
18 Department of Education to focus on the States's initiatives to improve
19 education for young students.

20
21 2. a. There is established ²[an Office] a Division² of Early
22 Childhood Education in the Department of Education. The
23 administrator and head of the ²[office shall be an assistant
24 commissioner. The assistant commissioner] division² shall be a person
25 qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the
26 ²[office] division² and shall devote his entire time to the performance
27 of those duties.

28 b. The ²[office] division² shall be responsible for:

29 (1) setting required standards for early childhood education
30 programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood
31 Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs
32 for three- and four-year olds that emphasize the quality necessary to
33 meet children's needs, including ^{1,1} but not limited to ^{1,1} standards for
34 teacher qualifications, program design and facilities;

35 (2) identifying and disseminating information on model early
36 childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for
37 program quality;

38 (3) the coordination of early childhood programs and services

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 23, 2000.

² Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations September 25, 2000.

1 ²[across State agencies] in consultation with the Department of
2 Human Services²;

3 (4) identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement
4 successful early childhood education programs based on a
5 comprehensive needs assessment ²[conducted by ¹[each participating
6 district] Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program
7 Aid, and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three-
8 and four-year olds¹ utilizing assessment criteria developed by the
9 office in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood
10 Education ¹established pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)
11 (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 2122 of
12 2000)¹² ;

13 (5) providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in
14 implementing early childhood education programs;

15 (6) implementing the early childhood education ²[components of
16 the May 21, 1998 ¹[order] and March 7, 2000]² orders¹ of the New
17 Jersey Supreme Court ²[in Abbott v. Burke, 153 N.J. 480 (1998) ¹
18 and N.J. (2000) Docket # M-1336-98¹]²;

19 (7) overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood
20 education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early
21 Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool
22 programs for three- and four-year olds; and

23 (8) providing ², in consultation with the Department of Human
24 Services and the Abbott Implementation Advisory Council,² an annual
25 report to the Legislature and public on ²[data collected regarding the
26 implementation of]² early childhood education ²[programs in the
27 Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and
28 all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-
29 year olds, based on evaluation criteria developed jointly with the
30 Commission on Early Childhood Education]².

31

32 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

33

34

35

36

37 Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the DOE.

CHAPTER 139

AN ACT establishing a Division of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education and supplementing chapter 44 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares that: the enriched experience provided by quality early childhood education programs and services provides excellent preparation for success in school; studies have shown that the positive benefits to children of quality early childhood education programs outweigh the costs of providing these programs and include an increase in employment, a decrease in welfare dependence, a decrease in crime, and a decrease in other socially non-desirable behaviors in the later adult life of children served; in light of the importance of this issue, a Division of Early Childhood Education should be statutorily established in the Department of Education to focus on the States's initiatives to improve education for young students.

C.18A:44-6 Division of Early Childhood Education.

2. a. There is established a Division of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education. The administrator and head of the division shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the division and shall devote his entire time to the performance of those duties.

b. The division shall be responsible for:

(1) setting required standards for early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds that emphasize the quality necessary to meet children's needs, including, but not limited to, standards for teacher qualifications, program design and facilities;

(2) identifying and disseminating information on model early childhood education programs that meet and exceed high standards for program quality;

(3) the coordination of early childhood programs and services in consultation with the Department of Human Services;

(4) identifying the amount of funds necessary to implement successful early childhood education programs based on a comprehensive needs assessment;

(5) providing assistance, as needed, to school districts in implementing early childhood education programs;

(6) implementing the early childhood education orders of the New Jersey Supreme Court;

(7) overseeing the evaluation and monitoring of early childhood education programs in the Abbott districts, districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid and all other districts that operate preschool programs for three- and four-year olds; and

(8) providing, in consultation with the Department of Human Services and the Abbott Implementation Advisory Council, an annual report to the Legislature and public on early childhood education

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved November 1, 2000.

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Laura Otterbourg
609-777-2600

RELEASE: November 1, 2000

Governor Christie Whitman today signed the following legislation:

A-2122, sponsored by Assembly Members Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Malone (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Turner (D-Mercer), establishes a Commission on Early Childhood Education in but not of the Department of Education. The bill incorporates recommendations made by the Governor in a conditional veto.

A-2123, sponsored by Assembly Members Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Malone (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Turner (D-Mercer), establishes an Office on Early Childhood Education in the Department of Education. The bill incorporates recommendations made by the Governor in a conditional veto.

A-52, sponsored by Assembly Members Jones (D-Essex) and Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset), increases the maximum number of votes of a member of a mutual savings and loan association.

A-2265, sponsored by Assembly Members Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset) and Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Senator Bennett (R-Monmouth), allows banks, savings banks and savings and loan associations to act as title insurance producers.

S-631, sponsored by Senators Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Assembly Members Holzapfel (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), clarifies penalty for possession of 50 or more marijuana plants with intent to distribute.