

18A:35-1+2

7/21/87

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 18A:35-1 and 18A:35-2

(N.J. government and history-- require in high school curriculum)

CHAPTER 52

Laws Of: 1987

Bill No: A649

Sponsor(s): Frelinghuysen

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Education

Senate: Education

Amended during passage: Yes according to Governor's recommendations

Amendments denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly:

June 23, 1986 Re-enacted 12-18-86

Senate:

September 18, 1986 Re-enacted 2-23-87

Date of Approval: February 25, 1987

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: Yes

Message on Signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

[THIRD OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 649

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1986 SESSION

By Assemblyman FRELINGHUYSEN

AN ACT concerning the teaching of New Jersey history and amending N. J. S. 18A:35-1 and N. J. S. 18A:35-2.

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

1 1. N. J. S. 18A:35-1 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:35-1. The superintendent of schools in each school district
3 shall prepare and recommend to the board of education of the
4 district, and the board of education shall adopt a suitable two-year
5 course of study in the history of the United States, *including the*
6 *history of New Jersey*, to be given to each student during the last
7 four years of high school. Said course of study shall include ma-
8 terials recommended by the commissioner dealing with the history
9 of the Negro in America.

1 2. N. J. S. 18A:35-2 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:35-2. Such course of study shall include instruction in

3 (1) The principles and ideals of the American form of repre-
4 sentative government as expressed in the Declaration of Indepen-
5 dence and the Constitution of the United States and particularly
6 in the Bill of Rights; and

7 (2) The history of the origin and growth of the social, economic
8 and cultural development of the United States, of American family
9 life and of the high standard of living and other privileges en-
10 joyed by the citizens of the United States; and

11 (3) Such other events in the history of the United States as will
12 tend to instill, into every girl and boy, a determination to preserve
13 these principles and ideals as those of citizens of the United States

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 printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted May 5, 1986.

**—Senate committee amendments adopted September 8, 1986.

***—Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommen-
dation December 8, 1986.

14 and an appreciation of their solemn duty and obligation to exercise
15 the privilege of the ballot, upon their reaching voting age, to the
16 end that said principles and ideals may be so preserved; *and*

17 (4) *The history* ***[and government]*** *****[**and govern-**
18 *ment**] ******* *of the State of New Jersey* *****[**and its subdi-**
19 *visions**] ******* ***[and its political subdivisions]***.**

1 3. This act shall take effect July 1 next following its enactment.

EDUCATION — GENERAL

Requires that the public high school curriculum include material
on the history of New Jersey.

ASSEMBLY, No. 649

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel
PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1986 SESSION

By Assemblyman FRELINGHUYSEN

ASSEMBLY, No. 2743

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 1984

By Assemblyman FRELINGHUYSEN

AN ACT concerning the teaching of New Jersey history and amend-
ing N. J. S. 18A:35-1 and N. J. S. 18A:35-2.

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

1 1. N. J. S. 18A:35-1 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:35-1. The superintendent of schools in each school district
3 shall prepare and recommend to the board of education of the
4 district, and the board of education shall adopt a suitable two-year
5 course of study in the history of the United States, *including the*
6 *history of New Jersey*, to be given to each student during the last
7 four years of high school. Said course of study shall include ma-
8 terials recommended by the commissioner dealing with the history
9 of the Negro in America.

1 2. N. J. S. 18A:35-2 is amended to read as follows:

2 18A:35-2. Such course of study shall include instruction in

3 (1) The principles and ideals of the American form of repre-
4 sentative government as expressed in the Declaration of Indepen-
5 dence and the Constitution of the United States and particularly
6 in the Bill of Rights; and

7 (2) The history of the origin and growth of the social, economic
8 and cultural development of the United States, of American family
9 life and of the high standard of living and other privileges en-
10 joyed by the citizens of the United States; and

11 (3) Such other events in the history of the United States as will
12 tend to instill, into every girl and boy, a determination to preserve
13 these principles and ideals as those of citizens of the United States

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

14 and an appreciation of their solemn duty and obligation to exercise
15 the privilege of the ballot, upon their reaching voting age, to the
16 end that said principles and ideals may be so preserved; *and*

17 *(4) The history and government of the State of New Jersey and*
18 *its political subdivisions.*

1 3. This act shall take effect July 1 next following its enactment.

STATEMENT

A thorough and efficient education for the youth of New Jersey requires that they become familiar with the history and government of their State and its communities. This knowledge is necessary to strengthen the bonds that relate individual citizens to each other and to their community and government.

This bill amends the existing requirement for at least two years of American history during high school to provide that material on the history and government of New Jersey and its political subdivisions be incorporated within this course of study.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 649

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 1986

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports this bill as amended.

As amended, this bill mandates the incorporation of material on New Jersey in the two-year course of study in United States history which is required for all students in public high schools in the State (N. J. S. 18A:35-1).

At present the only statutory mandate for instruction relating to New Jersey is the requirement for a course in the geography, history and government of New Jersey to be offered in elementary schools (N. J. S. 18A:35-3). Most school districts in the State offer this required New Jersey course in grade 4 or 5.

The committee amendment removes from the bill a requirement that material on the government of New Jersey and political subdivisions be included in the course of study.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1986 session pending technical review. As amended the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 649

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 8, 1986

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports this bill with amendments.

As amended, this bill would require that material on the history and government of the State of New Jersey be included in the two-year course of study of United States history which is currently required of all high school students.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the only statutory course requirements for high school students are the United States history course, health and physical education, and drug and alcohol education. In addition, the State Department of Education requires four years of English, two years of mathematics, one year of science, a semester of art education, a semester of career education, and family life education. These requirements are currently under review by the department.

A course on New Jersey civics, geography and history is required for elementary school pupils (N. J. S. 18A:35-3). This course is normally given in the fifth or sixth grade.

The committee amended this bill to require that the course include materials on the government of New Jersey and its political subdivisions. As amended, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1872.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

December 4, 1986

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 649 (2ND OCR)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 649 (2nd OCR) with my objections, for reconsideration.

This bill requires that the mandated study of United States history by high school pupils include the study of the history of the State of New Jersey. This is a laudable goal. I believe that the study of the history of New Jersey should be an integral part of the educational process in our public schools because New Jersey's future citizens cannot adequately determine the future course of the State without a firm knowledge of its past. I believe New Jersey's citizens should be as well informed about the history of their State as are students in other states. During the legislative process concerning this bill, it became apparent that other states have taken pains to insure that their students are well versed in their state's history. This bill will help to improve the understanding that New Jersey students have of the history of the State of New Jersey.

While I strongly support the need for New Jersey students to study New Jersey history, I am also sensitive to the need to avoid curriculum mandates. I firmly believe that local communities should have maximum flexibility in setting their own curriculum policies within the parameters of general requirements. For this reason, I believe it intrusive upon local school district curriculum prerogative to specify that the study of the history of New Jersey must include the study of the government of the State and its political subdivisions. This language was deleted during the legislative process and then restored prior to its passage. I believe that the bill was improved when this language was deleted. Local school districts should determine their students' courses of study regarding the history of the State of New Jersey.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 649 (2nd OCR) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

2

Page 2, Section 2, Line 17: After "history" delete "and government"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 18: After "New Jersey" delete "and its political
subdivisions"

Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas H. Kean

GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Michael R. Cole

Chief Counsel