

ASSEMBLY, No. 3228

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 6, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblywoman CAROLINE CASAGRANDE

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Provides that tuition assistance or additional compensation for graduate degree provided under employment contracts for certain school district administrators may only be provided if degree is conferred by accredited institution.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the contracts of certain school administrators
2 and supplementing chapter 7 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. The standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education
9 for the review and approval of employment contracts for
10 superintendents of schools, assistant superintendents of schools, and
11 school business administrators pursuant to subsection j. of
12 N.J.S.18A:7-8 shall include a requirement that in the event that the
13 contract provides tuition assistance for graduate school coursework
14 or additional compensation upon the acquisition of a graduate
15 degree, such tuition assistance or compensation may only be
16 provided if the graduate degree is conferred by a duly authorized
17 institution of higher education as defined in section 3 of P.L.1986,
18 c.87 (C.18A:3-15.3).

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 In April of 2007, the Legislature enacted the CORE package of
26 legislation that implemented various oversight and accountability
27 measures for public school districts and administrators in those
28 districts. One of the provisions of that legislation directed the
29 executive county superintendent of schools to review and approve,
30 according to standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education,
31 all employment contracts for superintendents of schools, assistant
32 superintendents of schools, and school business administrators prior
33 to the execution of those contracts.

34 This bill provides that the standards adopted by the
35 commissioner for the approval of such employment contracts must
36 include a requirement that in the event that the contract provides
37 tuition assistance for graduate school coursework or additional
38 compensation upon acquisition of a graduate degree, the tuition
39 assistance or additional compensation may only be provided if the
40 degree is conferred by a duly authorized institution.

41 The purpose of this bill is to address the fact that some school
42 districts have provided tuition assistance for graduate level
43 coursework and additional compensation to school administrators
44 upon attainment of a graduate degree completed at an out-of-state
45 institution that is not considered by the State of New Jersey to be a
46 duly authorized institution. Under current law in the case of an
47 institution located outside of New Jersey, a duly authorized
48 institution is one that is licensed by the appropriate state agency and

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- 1 regionally accredited or seeking accreditation by the appropriate
- 2 accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary
- 3 Education or the United States Department of Education.