

# SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 3945**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3945 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the three-year “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program,” which is to be developed and operated by the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner is to select one or more senior public institutions of higher education that offers an educator preparation program, and one or more school districts, charter schools, or renaissance school projects that each employ at least one male teacher of color to participate in the pilot program.

Under the pilot program, the commissioner is to select 19 male students of color from among the senior public institutions of higher education selected for participation in the pilot program and 19 male teachers of color from the school districts, charter schools, or renaissance school projects selected for participation in the pilot program. To be eligible for the program, a student is required to be in the final year of an educator preparation program.

The commissioner is required to pair each selected student with a current teacher, who is to serve as the student’s mentor through the candidate’s last year of the educator preparation program and, if the student is hired for employment in the participating district, charter school, or renaissance school project upon the student’s graduation from an educator preparation program, for the first two years of the student’s teaching career.

A school district, charter school, or renaissance school project that provides mentoring services under the provisions of the amended bill is to conduct a review of the student’s performance under the pilot program following completion of the student’s final year in an educator preparation program. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school project that provides mentoring services to a student under the pilot program is required to make a good faith effort to hire the student following the student’s graduation from an educator preparation program, if the student receives a favorable performance review under the review conducted by the school district, charter school, or renaissance school project.

Under the pilot program, a mentor is to receive a stipend of \$5,000 for each year of participation in the pilot program.

At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner is to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program, including the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to additional school districts, charter schools or renaissance school projects, and senior public institutions of higher education in the State.

The amended bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Education \$95,000 to establish the "Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program."

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 3945 is identical to Senate Bill No. 1660, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- increase the number of students and mentors to be selected for participation in the pilot program from 10 to 19;
- clarify that mentors may be employed by school districts, charter schools, or renaissance school projects;
- increase the appropriation from \$50,000 to \$95,000; and
- revise the synopsis to reflect these changes.