

**ASSEMBLY, No. 664**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM B. SAMPSON, IV**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Speight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Second Chance Program in charge of providing opportunities through labor organizations for formerly incarcerated individuals.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Labor Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/16/2023)**

1 AN ACT concerning employment opportunities for individuals  
2 returning to the workforce after imprisonment and supplementing  
3 Title 34 of the Revised 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:

9 a. There is a lack of viable employment opportunities in New  
10 Jersey for individuals recently released from prison;

11 b. Employment opportunities are necessary to curtail the rate of  
12 recidivism and to reincorporate recently incarcerated individuals  
13 back into civil society;

14 c. Individuals with low educational attainment are at greater  
15 risk of engaging in criminal activity since they have tremendous  
16 difficulty finding and maintaining adequate jobs; and

17 d. Labor organizations, given their unique understanding of  
18 their community's economic conditions are in the best position to  
19 identify employment opportunities for recently incarcerated  
20 individuals and to propose a plan for attracting such employment  
21 opportunities into their respective trades.

22  
23 2. There is established, in the Department of Labor and  
24 Workforce Development, the Second Chance Program (program).  
25 The program shall be under the direction of the State Employment  
26 and Training Commission as part of the commission's  
27 responsibilities pursuant to subsection d. of section 9 of P.L.1989,  
28 c.293 (C.34:15C-6). The purpose of the program shall be to provide  
29 real and lasting career opportunities for formerly incarcerated  
30 individuals through, and in consultation with, labor organizations in  
31 order to reduce recidivism.

32 For the purposes of this section, "labor organization" means a  
33 labor organization as defined in section 3 of 29 U.S.C. s.402.

34  
35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.