

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2563

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2563 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school districts to teach additional classes in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic schools.

This bill allows public school districts employing eligible teachers to object to participation in the program for certain allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement of the arrangement from the public school district employing the teacher. Under this bill, a nonpublic school would notify a school district that a teacher employed by the school district plans to participate in the program, and the school district would have the opportunity to object prior to submission of the application if the school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement. The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no conflicting public school duties.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3834, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- specify that an eligible teacher who is currently employed by a public school district to teach in a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science field will teach a subject and a grade level in the nonpublic school for which the teacher holds appropriate certification, including certification without a specific subject matter endorsement where permitted by statute;
- remove the definition of “instructional hourly wage”;

- clarify that a participating teacher will receive an amount equal to the teacher's annual salary as calculated on a per-hour basis multiplied by the number of hours the teacher will teach STEM classes at a nonpublic school multiplied by 1.25;
- revise the provisions of the bill concerning the ability of school districts to object to the application to clarify that the notification from a nonpublic school that a teacher employed by a school district intends to participate in the program and the 10 day period for the school district to object to the partnership will occur prior to submission of the application; and
- state that school districts will use grant funds to provide compensation to a participating eligible teacher including applicable federal employment payroll taxes.