

**ASSEMBLY, No. 793**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

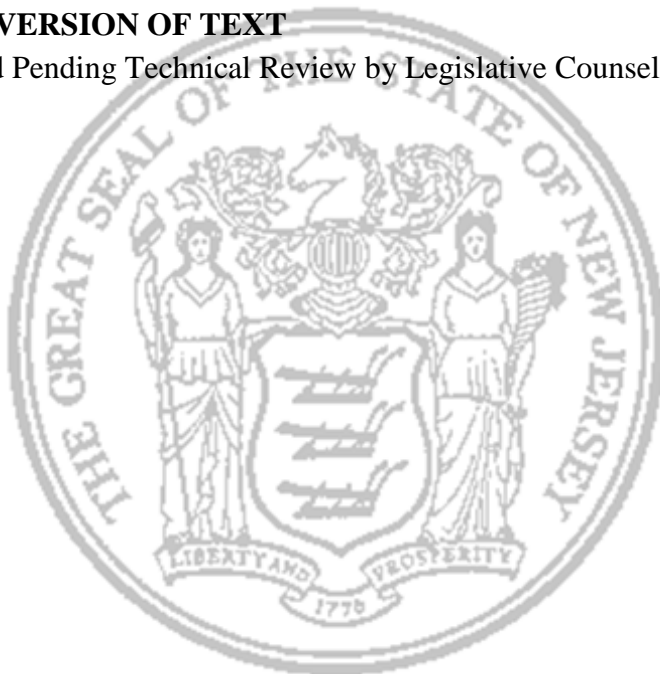
**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywomen  
Vainieri Huttie and Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs Juvenile Justice Commission to establish arts education pilot program for juvenile offenders.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1    **AN ACT** concerning arts education programs for juvenile offenders  
2       and supplementing P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-169 et seq.).

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

6  
7       1.   a.   The Juvenile Justice Commission, created pursuant to  
8       section 2 of P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-170), shall establish an arts  
9       education pilot program to be administered by the commission  
10      pursuant to the provisions of this act, P.L.       , c.    (C.    )  
11      (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The commission shall  
12      consult with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in the  
13      Department of State in the development, operation, administration,  
14      and evaluation of the pilot program. The pilot program shall  
15      provide for the development of three model arts education programs  
16      to deliver innovative arts-based programming for juvenile offenders  
17      in detention and correction facilities in this State during a five-year  
18      period. The model programs, which shall be developed through  
19      organizational partnerships including, but not limited to, State and  
20      local arts organizations, community-based agencies, philanthropic  
21      entities, and the private sector, shall have the following goals:

22       (1) to prepare juvenile offenders for educational achievement by  
23       developing imagination, reasoning, judgment and the critical  
24       thinking skills necessary for problem solving and decision making;

25       (2) to develop an arts-infused program based on  
26       interdisciplinary and thematic units;

27       (3) to broaden the role of the teacher through staff development  
28       to include such diverse roles as instructor, coach, mentor and  
29       exemplar;

30       (4) to improve student performance as determined by standard  
31       measures and alternative assessment strategies;

32       (5) to enhance student self-concept as determined by measures  
33       of self-esteem;

34       (6) to encourage understanding of traditional, local and diverse  
35       cultures;

36       (7) to integrate program activities with professional and  
37       community-based arts organizations; and

38       (8) to further evaluate and research arts education and its impact  
39       on the positive development and rehabilitation of juvenile  
40       offenders.

41      b.   The commission shall forward a request for proposals for the  
42      development of arts-based programs under this act to all appropriate  
43      agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, all State  
44      and local arts organizations in this State. An organization which  
45      wants to participate in the pilot program shall submit a proposal to  
46      the commission. The proposal shall outline the organization's plan  
47      for arts-based programming for juvenile offenders to enhance  
48      positive development, excellence, student motivation, and self-

1 esteem. The proposal shall include, but not be limited to, the  
2 following information:

- 3 (1) the specific elements of the proposed arts programming;  
4 (2) the content, techniques, and materials to be used to advance  
5 the organizational ability, critical thinking, problem solving,  
6 creative, and other skills of the juvenile offenders participating in  
7 the program;  
8 (3) the manner in which professional development experiences  
9 in the arts will be factored into the program design; and  
10 (4) the funding sources for the program for a five-year period.

11 c. The commission shall select three programs to participate in  
12 the pilot program based upon the commission's evaluation of the  
13 organization's ability to successfully implement model arts-based  
14 programming. The selection process shall include visits to potential  
15 organizations to ascertain their commitment and ability to develop  
16 and implement arts-based programming specifically for juvenile  
17 offenders.

18 d. The commission shall provide for the inclusion of an  
19 evaluation component within the pilot program. The assessment  
20 methods designed to evaluate the model programs shall be based on  
21 best practices for assessing arts-based programming for juvenile  
22 offenders and youth, specifically their educational outcomes and  
23 student progress in problem solving, comprehension, critical  
24 thinking and reasoning, and positive development. During the initial  
25 four years of the pilot program each model program shall undergo  
26 an annual evaluation conducted by the commission. After the  
27 program's fourth year, the commission shall submit to the  
28 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
29 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), an evaluation of the pilot program and a  
30 recommendation on the advisability of its continuation and  
31 expansion within the State.

32 e. The Juvenile Justice Commission, in consultation with the  
33 New Jersey State Council on the Arts, shall adopt, pursuant to the  
34 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
35 seq.), the rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
36 provisions of this act.

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38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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## STATEMENT

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43 This bill directs the Juvenile Justice Commission to establish an  
44 arts education pilot program for juvenile offenders in this State.

45 Under the bill, in consultation with the New Jersey State Council  
46 on the Arts, the commission would oversee the development,  
47 operation, administration, and evaluation of the pilot program. The  
48 pilot program would involve the development of three model arts

1 education programs to deliver innovative arts-based programming  
2 for juvenile offenders in detention and correction facilities during a  
3 five-year period. The model programs would be developed through  
4 organizational partnerships including, but not limited to, State and  
5 local arts organizations, community-based agencies, philanthropic  
6 entities, and the private sector, and would be self-funded. The  
7 commission would select three programs to participate in the pilot  
8 program based upon the organization's ability to successfully  
9 implement model arts-based programming.

10 The bill requires the commission to include an evaluation  
11 component within the pilot program based on best practices for  
12 assessing arts-based programming for juvenile offenders and youth,  
13 specifically their educational outcomes and student progress in  
14 problem solving, comprehension, critical thinking and reasoning,  
15 and positive development. During the initial four years of the pilot  
16 program each model program would undergo an annual evaluation  
17 conducted by the commission. After the program's fourth year, the  
18 commission would submit to the Governor and the Legislature an  
19 evaluation of the pilot program and a recommendation on the  
20 advisability of its continuation and expansion within the State.