

CHAPTER 200

AN ACT establishing the NJ PLACE program, amending P.L.2007, c.175 and supplementing P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-1 et seq.).

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

C.34:15D-24 “NJ PLACE” program.

1. a. There is established, in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and under the direction of the State Employment and Training Commission as part of the commission’s responsibilities pursuant to subsection d. of section 9 of P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-6), the New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education, or “NJ PLACE”, program. The purpose of the program is to facilitate cooperation between appropriate State agencies, employer organizations, labor organizations, schools, and two-year and four-year institutions of higher education to enter into agreements to provide college credit in connection with apprenticeship programs and permit the work of apprentices in those programs to be credited towards two-year and four-year college degrees. To implement its purpose, the program shall continue the current process of negotiations between county colleges and other institutions of higher education, employer organizations, labor organizations and State agencies which has resulted in the establishment of an associate in applied science in technical studies degree program into which credits are transferred for the time spent by apprentices in classroom and non-classroom apprenticeship training and education. While most of these existing articulation agreements establishing transfer credits are between county colleges and construction trade apprenticeships, the NJ PLACE program shall work to facilitate agreements involving additional apprenticeship programs outside, as well as inside, of the construction industry and involving four-year, as well as two-year, college degrees.

b. The NJ PLACE program shall coordinate its efforts to promote apprenticeship programs and related higher education with the efforts of the “Youth Transitions to Work Partnership Act,” created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-1 et al.) and consortia of businesses, business organizations, labor organizations and educational institutions funded by that partnership to link newly established and existing apprenticeship programs with secondary schools and institutions of higher education to provide effective transitions for high school graduates into those programs.

c. The State Employment and Training Commission is authorized to obtain, accept and utilize resources for the NJ PLACE program as may be, or may become, available from appropriate State, federal and non-governmental sources of funding for employment, training and educational purposes, including the Workforce Development Partnership Fund created pursuant to section 9 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-9), the “Supplemental Workforce Fund for Basic Skills” established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2001, c.152 (C.34:15D-21), or funds available pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Pub.L.105-220 (29 U.S.C. s.2801 et seq.).

d. For the purposes of this section, "apprenticeship program" means a registered apprenticeship program providing to each trainee combined classroom and on-the-job training under the direct and close supervision of a highly skilled worker in an occupation recognized as an apprenticeable trade, registered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the U.S. Department of Labor, and meeting the standards established by the office.

2. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.175 (C.18A:62-46) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:62-46 Transfer of academic credits from county colleges.

1. Each public institution of higher education, in consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and the New Jersey Presidents' Council, shall establish and enter into a collective Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the seamless transfer of academic credits to a baccalaureate degree program from a completed associate of arts degree program, a completed associate of science degree program, or a completed associate in applied science in technical studies degree program which has credits transferred by the NJ PLACE program from apprenticeship programs. The transfer agreement shall include:

- a. a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by the Presidents' Council;
- b. policies and procedures for the seamless transfer and application of academic credits to a baccalaureate degree program from a completed associate degree program, including a guarantee that an associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, or associate in applied science in technical studies degree which has credits transferred by the NJ PLACE program from apprenticeship programs, awarded by a county college established pursuant to chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall be fully transferable and credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to which a student is admitted;
- c. policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding the transfer of academic credits;
- d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of the agreement; and
- e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher education are in compliance with the provisions of this act and to ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior institutions. The commission shall annually determine the data to be collected and shall notify each participating institution in a timely manner.

The policies and procedures set forth in the transfer agreement shall be fully operational by September 1, 2008, except that, with respect to associate in applied science in technical studies degree programs which have credits transferred by the NJ PLACE program from apprenticeship programs, the transfer agreement shall be fully operational by September 1, 2011.

3. Section 2 of P.L.2007, c.175 (C.18A:62-47) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:62-47 Adoption of policies, procedures regarding certain transfers.

2. On or before January 1, 2008, each public institution of higher education shall, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, develop and adopt as part of the collective Statewide transfer agreement established pursuant to section 1 of this act policies and procedures for the transfer of credits earned by a student who has not completed his associate degree program prior to transferring into a baccalaureate degree program, except that, with respect to associate in applied science in technical studies degree programs which have credits transferred by the NJ PLACE program from apprenticeship programs, those policies and procedures shall be developed and adopted on or before January 1, 2011.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 14, 2010.