



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 1155

LCO No. 4348

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" ACT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) In conformance with the
2 No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, and with implementation
3 conditioned on the receipt of sufficient federal funds, as determined by
4 the Commissioner of Education:

5 (1) Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, each student enrolled in
6 grades three to eight, inclusive, and ten in any public school shall,
7 annually, in April, take a state-wide mastery examination that
8 measures the essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing
9 and mathematics; and

10 (2) Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, each student enrolled in
11 grades five, eight and ten in any public school shall, annually, in April,
12 take a state-wide mastery examination in science.

13 (b) Mastery examinations pursuant to this section shall be provided
14 by and administered under the supervision of the State Board of

15 Education.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) The Department of Higher
 17 Education, in collaboration with the Board for State Academic Awards,
 18 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide
 19 scholarships to allow paraprofessionals to obtain an associate's degree.
 20 Scholarships may be awarded to paraprofessionals employed by local
 21 and regional school boards of education who are subject to the
 22 provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110 that require
 23 paraprofessionals to complete two years at an institution of higher
 24 education, obtain an associate's degree or higher, or to pass an
 25 assessment demonstrating instructional skills on or before January 8,
 26 2006. The scholarships may be based on need and other circumstances,
 27 based on criteria established by the Commissioner of Higher
 28 Education, and disbursed in annual payments. The total amount of
 29 scholarship money provided to any paraprofessional pursuant to this
 30 section shall not exceed (1) two thousand dollars, and (2) the combined
 31 cost of the tuition and fees at the institution of higher education the
 32 paraprofessional is attending or will attend. The department shall
 33 establish criteria for paraprofessionals for participation in the program
 34 and procedures for the repayment of the amount of the scholarships if
 35 the paraprofessional does not work as a paraprofessional in a local or
 36 regional school district upon completion of the program.

37 (b) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an
 38 employee of a local or regional board of education who does not
 39 possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who
 40 serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board of
 41 education.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To require testing in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, and to provide assistance to paraprofessionals who wish to obtain an associate's degree in order to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]