

CHAPTER 335

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Programs for Gifted Students and making an appropriation.

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

- a. gifted children have need for special academic programs in their schools;
- b. public schools must provide for those needs as well as encourage and support gifted children;
- c. gifted children require early identification and intervention, which must be provided by the public schools;
- d. gifted children must have an appropriate curriculum adapted to meet the pace and depth of their learning needs in order to reach their full potential and development;
- e. gifted and talented children are not disproportionately concentrated among members of any particular racial or ethnic group or gender;
- f. public schools must provide viable curriculum modifications for gifted students for their cognitive, creative and emotional needs; and
- g. it is appropriate to establish a commission to study the most effective way to implement programs for gifted children in New Jersey public schools.

2. There is established the New Jersey Commission on Programs for Gifted Students. The commission shall consist of 17 members as follows: two members of the Senate who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and who shall not be of the same political party; two members of the General Assembly who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and who shall not be of the same political party; 12 public members who shall be appointed by the Governor, including two representatives of the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children; two representatives of higher education who work in teacher preparation programs; two students at New Jersey public institutions of higher education who were previously enrolled in programs for gifted students; one representative each as recommended by the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, the New Jersey School Boards Association, and the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers; and the Commissioner of Education or a designee. Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

3. The commission shall organize within 30 days after the appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and a vice- chairperson from among its appointed members and a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

4. It shall be the duty of the commission to study the most effective and efficient method to implement programs for gifted children in New Jersey public schools, including, but not limited to, the identification of gifted children, the provision of programming services, the funding of the services, policies and procedures for the education of school personnel in the needs and appropriate instructional strategies for gifted children, and the appropriate method for program evaluation.

5. Staff and related support services shall be provided to the commission by the Office of Legislative Services. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency which it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

6. The commission shall issue a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six months after the date of the organizational meeting of the commission.

7. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$5,000 to the commission to effectuate the

purposes of this act

8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 30 days after the submission of the final report of the commission.

Approved January 5, 2002.