

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 1

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 4, 2006

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN H. ADLER

District 6 (Camden)

Senator JOSEPH V. DORIA, JR.

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman CRAIG A. STANLEY

District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

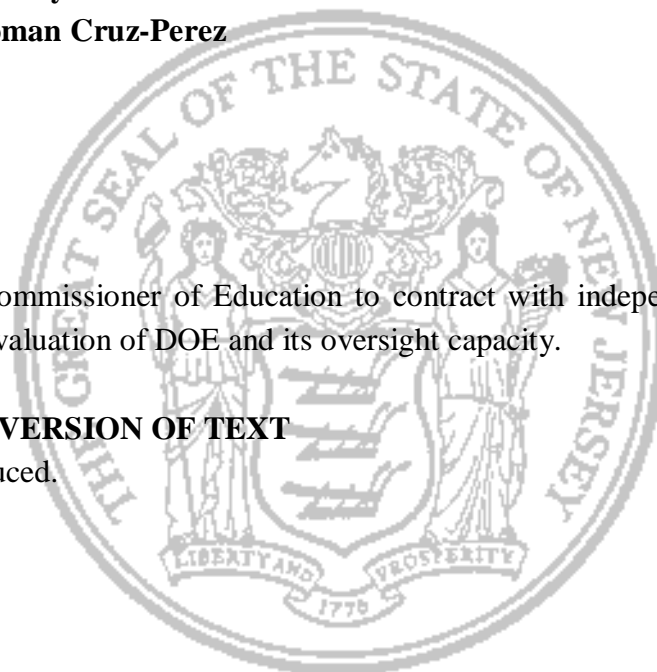
Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez

SYNOPSIS

Directs Commissioner of Education to contract with independent entity to conduct an evaluation of DOE and its oversight capacity.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/15/2006)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** directing the Commissioner of Education to
2 contract with an independent entity to conduct an evaluation of
3 the Department of Education and its oversight capacity.

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5 **WHEREAS**, During the course of its deliberations, the Joint Legislative
6 Committee on Public School Funding Reform heard testimony
7 regarding the need to ensure that all school districts are in
8 compliance with State statutory and regulatory requirements and
9 that State funds provided to local school districts are being properly
10 expended; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The Joint Legislative Committee on Public School
12 Funding Reform expressed a concern that the Department of
13 Education may lack an adequate level of staffing and other
14 resources to fulfill its important oversight responsibilities; and

15 **WHEREAS**, There is particular concern about the capacity of the
16 offices of the county superintendents of schools, which have
17 maintained minimal staffing levels despite being assigned an
18 increasing number of oversight responsibilities; and

19 **WHEREAS**, These deficiencies seriously undermine the department's
20 ability to hold local school districts accountable and conduct the
21 type of oversight which taxpayers rightfully expect, and to provide
22 the technical and other assistance to school districts that may be
23 necessary to improve and enhance the educational achievement of
24 students; and

25 **WHEREAS**, A reorganization of the department may be warranted to
26 better enable the department to identify and correct problems within
27 school districts in a timely and proactive manner; and

28 **WHEREAS**, In order to ensure increased school district accountability
29 and enhanced student achievement, an evaluation of the Department
30 of Education should be conducted that will identify measures to
31 improve the capacity of the department to oversee the operation of
32 school districts and to respond immediately and effectively to
33 operational and educational issues which may arise; now, therefore,

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35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
36 *State of New Jersey:*

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38 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall enter into a
39 contract with an independent entity to authorize that entity to
40 conduct a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of the
41 Department of Education in order to identify those organizational
42 and staffing deficiencies that limit the department's ability to
43 provide effective oversight of school districts; and to develop
44 recommendations for the reorganization of the department that will
45 improve the capacity of the department to oversee the operation of
46 school districts and to respond immediately and effectively to
47 operational and educational issues that may arise.

1 b. The commissioner shall identify existing resources to finance
2 the evaluation required pursuant to subsection a. of this section and
3 shall expend, with the approval of the Office of Management and
4 Budget in the Department of Treasury, an amount not to exceed
5 \$750,000 for the purpose of that evaluation.

6 c. The commissioner shall present the evaluation, its
7 recommendations for the reorganization of the department, and the
8 commissioner's response to those recommendations within six
9 months of the effective date of this resolution.

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11 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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16 This joint resolution directs the Commissioner of Education to
17 enter into a contract with an independent entity to authorize that
18 entity to conduct a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of the
19 Department of Education in order to identify those organizational
20 and staffing deficiencies that limit the department's ability to
21 provide effective oversight of school districts; and to develop
22 recommendations for the reorganization of the department that will
23 improve the capacity of the department to oversee the operation of
24 school districts and to respond immediately and effectively to
25 operational and educational issues that may arise. The
26 commissioner must identify existing resources to finance the
27 evaluation and expend, with the approval of the Office of
28 Management and Budget in the Department of Treasury, an amount
29 not to exceed \$750,000 for the purpose of that evaluation. The
30 commissioner must present the evaluation, its recommendations for
31 the reorganization of the department, and the commissioner's
32 response to those recommendations within six months of the
33 effective date of the resolution.