

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, 209th LEGISLATURE
Assembly Bill 3524:
An Act to Establish an Ergonomics in Education Study Commission

Thanks to the initiative of Ann Hainsworth, an enabled repetitive motion disorder victim from New Jersey, there is a Bill in consideration in the New Jersey Assembly to Establish an "Ergonomics in Education" Study Commission.

ASSEMBLY Bill No. 3524,
Introduced May-17-2001 and referred to the Assembly Education Committee

Sponsored by: Assemblyman Joseph J. Roberts, Democrat, District 5 (Camden and Gloucester) Brooklawn Shopping Plaza, Rt. 130 South & Browning Rd., Brooklawn, NJ 08030 (856)-742-7600 and Assemblywoman NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ, District 5 (Camden and Gloucester) 514 Cooper St., Camden, NJ 08102 (856)-541-1251

The text of the Bill A3524 can be viewed at:
http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2000/Bills/a3500/3524_i1.htm

This Bill has the potential to bring together a team, including educators, medical professionals and ergonomists to establish a statement of needs for ergonomics in education. It has the support of the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the New Jersey State Federation of Teachers.

Letters of support would be welcome and should be addressed to:

Chair Assembly Education Committee
Honorable David W. Wolfe
Assemblyman 10th Legislative District
852 Highway 70
Brick, New Jersey 08724

cc: Ann Hainsworth
720 Hunter St.
Gloster City, New Jersey 08030

cc: Honorable Joseph R. Malone
Vice Chairman
30th Legislative District
951 Route 206 North
Bordentown, New Jersey 08022

Honorable Jack Collins
Assembly, Speaker
63 East Avenue, Ste. C
Woodstown, NJ 08098

ASSEMBLY, No. 3524
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE
INTRODUCED MAY 17, 2001

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH J. ROBERTS, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Ergonomics in Education Study Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

An Act establishing an Ergonomics in Education Study Commission.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. There is created a commission to be known as the "Ergonomics in Education Study Commission." The commission shall consist of 13 members, including the Commissioners of Education and Labor, or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio members. There shall be five public members, no more than three of whom shall be of the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: one college professor who is published in the field of ergonomics; one academic medical professional who is published in the field of ergonomics; one licensed medical professional with knowledge and experience in the field of pediatrics; one licensed physical therapist with knowledge and experience in the field of physical rehabilitation; and one non-academic professional from the ergonomics technology industry. The Governor shall also appoint one representative of each of the following organizations: the New Jersey Education Association; the New Jersey School Boards Association; the New Jersey Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; the New Jersey State Federation of Teachers; and the Advisory Committee for Nonpublic Schools of the Department of Education.
2. All appointments to the commission shall be made within 30 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of 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 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 issues associated with ergonomics in New Jersey schools and develop a final report determining the need, viability, and cost associated with educating kindergarten through grade 12 pupils about classroom ergonomics and ergonomic study practices. The commission shall examine ergonomic issues, including, but not limited to:

- a. the types and levels of severity of injuries associated with non-ergonomic study environments and study practices;
 - b. the development of ergonomic design standards for current and future school facilities, including classroom design, study equipment, computers, and furniture;
 - c. the development of ergonomics education programs and the distribution of information on ergonomic study practices, including computer use; and
 - d. the funding levels necessary to support high quality ergonomics education programs, including funding for teacher training, appropriate curriculum and materials, and appropriate facilities.
5. 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 as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.
6. The commission may meet and hold hearings at the place or places it designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature. The commission shall issue a final report to the Governor and Legislature no later than six months following its organizational meeting on the need, viability, and cost associated with educating kindergarten through grade 12 pupils about classroom ergonomics and ergonomic study practices. The final report shall also include a plan for implementing recommended ergonomic design standards and ergonomic study practices. The commission shall expire upon the completion of its final report.
7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill creates a commission to be known as the "Ergonomics in Education Study Commission." The commission would consist of the Commissioners of Education and Labor, and 11 members selected by the Governor. There would be five public members, no more than three of whom would be of the same political party, appointed by the Governor as follows: one college professor who is published in the field of ergonomics; one academic medical professional who is published in the field of ergonomics; one licensed medical professional with knowledge and experience in the field of pediatrics; one licensed physical therapist with knowledge and experience in the field of physical rehabilitation; and one non-academic professional from the ergonomics technology industry. The Governor would also appoint one representative of each of the following organizations: the New Jersey Education Association; the New Jersey School Boards Association; the New Jersey Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; the New Jersey State Federation of Teachers; and the Advisory Committee for Nonpublic Schools of the Department of Education.

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The commission would issue a final report to the Governor and Legislature no later than six months following its organizational meeting on the need, viability, and cost associated with educating kindergarten through grade 12 pupils about classroom ergonomics and ergonomic study practices. The final report would also include a plan for implementing recommended ergonomic design standards and ergonomic study practices. Following the submission of its final report, the commission would expire.