

**ASSEMBLY, No. 917**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**212th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA**

**District 15 (Mercer)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes a computers for schools program in DOC.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/9/2007)**

1 AN ACT establishing a computers for schools program in the  
2 Department of Corrections and supplementing Title 30 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. There is established in the Department of Corrections a  
9 computers for schools program. Under the program, inmates shall  
10 refurbish donated computers, which shall be made available to  
11 elementary and secondary schools in this State.

12  
13 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall designate the State  
14 correctional facility or facilities, as the case may be, to participate  
15 in the program.

16 b. The commissioner shall provide for the training of the  
17 inmates selected to participate in the program. The training may be  
18 performed by employees of the department, a private entity under  
19 contract with the department, volunteers from a non-profit entity or  
20 any combination thereof.

21 c. To ensure against abuse or misuse by inmates, the  
22 commissioner shall remove (1) the modems from all donated  
23 computers to make it impossible to set up Internet connections and  
24 (2) any software that may be susceptible to inappropriate use or  
25 activities.

26  
27 3. The Commissioner of Education shall notify boards of  
28 education of the computers for schools program established  
29 pursuant to this act. The notice shall be in a manner deemed  
30 appropriate by the commissioner.

31 Boards of education interested in participating in the program  
32 shall so notify the commissioner.

33 The commissioner shall prepare a list of the districts interested in  
34 receiving refurbished computers pursuant to the program. Priority  
35 shall be given to the districts located in, or adjacent to, the  
36 municipality wherein the refurbishing correctional facility is situate.

37  
38 4. The Commissioner of Corrections, in conjunction with the  
39 Commissioner of Education, shall solicit the donation of computers  
40 to the program through an Internet website and other appropriate  
41 methods. The website shall include substantially the following  
42 statement:

43 "Computers for Schools: Good for donors, good for students,  
44 good for taxpayers, and good for New Jersey.

45  
46 Donors get tax write-offs; students get access to computers;  
47 taxpayers save tax money because schools do not pay for the  
48 computers; and inmates learn a valuable skill that will pay-off in the

1 job market when released."

2

3 On the website, the commissioners shall describe the program,  
4 advise the public and businesses how they may participate in the  
5 program, indicate the locations where computers may be donated,  
6 and include such other information relating to the program as they  
7 deem appropriate.

8

9 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the second month  
10 following enactment.

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### STATEMENT

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15 This bill establishes a computers for schools program in the  
16 Department of Corrections.

17 Under the bill, inmates would refurbish donated computers for  
18 distribution to interested elementary and secondary schools. The  
19 bill directs the Commissioner of Corrections to designate one or  
20 more State correctional facilities to participate in the program.  
21 Training for the participating inmates may be done by either  
22 employees of the department, private entities under contract to the  
23 department, volunteers from non-profit entities, or any combination  
24 thereof which the commissioner deems appropriate.

25 To guard against abuse or misuse by inmates, the department is  
26 to remove the modems from all donated computers to make it  
27 impossible to set up Internet connections and any software that may  
28 be susceptible to inappropriate use or activities.

29 The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to notify local  
30 boards of education about the program. The commissioner is to  
31 prepare a list of the interested districts, giving priority to those  
32 located either within, or adjacent to, the municipality where the  
33 correctional facility refurbishing the computers is located.

34 Finally, the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner  
35 of Education are to establish an Internet website to publicize the  
36 computers for schools program and to advise individuals and  
37 companies how they may participate in the program.