

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, No. 1340

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2026

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1340 SCS.

As amended, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to develop and distribute guidance to public schools concerning accommodations for students who are fasting for religious or medical reasons. The commissioners are required to consult with interested stakeholders in the education community in developing the guidance.

The bill provides that the guidance will address:

(1) flexibility for physical education classes, athletic participation, examinations, and other school activities;

(2) differentiated instruction and alternative educational activities for students whose fasting may affect participation in certain physical activities;

(3) strategies to support students who are fasting for religious or medical reasons without adversely affecting the students' academic standing or access to instruction aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;

(4) communication with parents or guardians regarding requests for accommodations related to fasting; and

(5) professional development resources and best practices for teachers, coaches, school nurses, counselors, and administrators concerning students who are fasting for religious or medical reasons.

Within one year of the effective date of the bill, the Department of Education is required to post the guidance on its Internet website.

The bill is not to be construed as providing a public school the authority to: alter State graduation requirements for students who are fasting for religious or medical reasons; preclude a student who is fasting from meeting local graduation requirements as a result of any accommodations provided to the student; or require a student who is fasting to complete additional schoolwork or instructional time as a result of any accommodations provided to the student in order to meet local graduation requirements.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1340 SCS is identical to the committee substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2042, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- remove requirements that the guidance produced pursuant to the bill provide recommendations on: scheduling considerations; model policies concerning matters related to student fasting; and methods by which school districts may address graduation credit requirements and course participation requirements;
- remove reference to “instructional activities” with respect to recommendations concerning the provision of differentiated instruction and alternative educational activities for students;
- provide that the guidance produced pursuant to the bill would give recommendations concerning strategies to support students who are fasting without adversely affecting the students’ academic standing or access to instruction aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;
- provide that the bill would not be construed to alter graduation requirements, preclude a student from meeting local graduation requirements as a result of any accommodations provided to the student, or require a student to complete additional schoolwork or instructional time as a result of any accommodations provided to the student; and
- require the Department of Education to make the guidance publicly available within one year, instead of 180 days, following the bill’s effective date.