

SENATE, No. 274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires training program for school bus drivers and aides on interacting with students with special needs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/12/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning training of school bus drivers and aides and
2 supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Commissioner of Education shall develop a training
9 program for school bus drivers and school bus aides on proper
10 procedures for interacting with students with special needs. The
11 training program shall include, but need not be limited to, the
12 following:

- 13 a. appropriate behavior management;
14 b. effective communication;
15 c. use and operation of adaptive equipment; and
16 d. understanding behaviors that may be related to specific
17 disabilities.

18 The commissioner shall make the training program available to
19 boards of education and school bus contractors providing pupil
20 transportation services under contract with boards of education no
21 later than one year following the effective date of this act.

22
23 2. a. An employer shall administer the training program
24 developed pursuant to section 1 of this act to all school bus drivers
25 and school bus aides that it employs. In the case of an individual
26 who is employed prior to the development and availability of the
27 training program, the employer shall administer the training
28 program to the individual no later than 180 days after the training
29 program is made available by the commissioner. In the case of an
30 individual who is employed after the development and availability
31 of the training program, the employer shall administer the training
32 program to the individual prior to that individual operating a school
33 bus or serving as an aide on a school bus.

34 b. As used in this section, "employer" means a board of
35 education or a contractor that provides pupil transportation services
36 under contract with a board of education.

37
38 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill requires that the Commissioner of Education develop a
44 training program for school bus drivers and school bus aides on
45 interacting with students with special needs. The training program
46 would include appropriate behavior management, effective
47 communication, the use and operation of adaptive equipment, and

S274 GREENSTEIN, RUIZ

3

- 1 understanding behavior that may be related to specific disabilities.
- 2 Once the training program is made available, boards of education
- 3 and school bus contractors that provide student transportation
- 4 services under contract with boards of education would be required
- 5 to administer the training program to all school bus drivers and
- 6 school bus aides that they employ.