

SENATE, No. 447

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOE to make database of special education decisions available on website.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning access to legal decisions regarding special
2 education and supplementing chapter 46 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey 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. a. The Department of Education shall maintain and make
9 available on its website an electronic database of legal decisions
10 concerning special education in New Jersey. The purpose of the
11 database shall be to provide parents, school districts, child study
12 team members, and other interested members of the public with
13 easily accessible information on legal decisions regarding New
14 Jersey special education matters.

15 b. The database shall contain a full-text copy of each written
16 decision rendered by the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law
17 in a special education due process hearing, and, if the decision is
18 appealed, any subsequent decision on the matter rendered by a court
19 of the State of New Jersey or a federal court. The database shall
20 include each special education decision rendered after the effective
21 date of this act.
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23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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26 STATEMENT
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28 This bill requires the Department of Education to maintain an
29 electronic database of legal decisions concerning special education
30 in New Jersey. The department must make the database available
31 on its website so that it can be easily accessed by parents, school
32 districts, child study team members, or other interested members of
33 the public who wish to obtain information on legal decisions
34 regarding New Jersey special education matters.

35 The database will contain a full-text copy of each decision
36 rendered by the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in
37 a special education due process hearing. If the OAL decision is
38 appealed, any subsequent decision on the matter rendered by a New
39 Jersey State court or a federal court must also be included in the
40 database. The database will include each special education decision
41 rendered after the bill's effective date.