

# SENATE, No. 2091

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RONALD L. RICE**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Gordon and Turner**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/1/2014)**

1 AN ACT concerning school security alarms and supplementing  
2 chapter 41 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the  
9 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or  
10 near the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is  
11 not clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that  
12 public roadway.

13 “Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by  
14 the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-  
15 threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law  
16 enforcement.

17 b. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall  
18 be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school  
19 security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire  
20 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The alarm shall  
21 be directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the  
22 case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is  
23 no municipal police department, a location designated by the  
24 Superintendent of State Police, and shall immediately transmit a  
25 signal or message to such authorities upon activation. The alarm  
26 shall not be audible within the school building.

27 c. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall  
28 be equipped with an emergency light that is linked to the school’s  
29 panic alarm and which turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

30

31 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of section 14  
32 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) to the contrary, the proceeds of  
33 bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of  
34 SDA district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs  
35 of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county  
36 vocational school districts, shall be used to fund the full cost of the  
37 panic alarms and emergency lights required in public elementary  
38 and secondary school buildings in any district pursuant to section 1  
39 of this act.

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41 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth month  
42 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary  
47 schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security  
48 emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation,

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1 lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will  
2 not be audible within the school building, must be directly linked to  
3 law enforcement authorities and must immediately transmit a signal  
4 or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines  
5 “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the  
6 manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or  
7 emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

8 The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary  
9 schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the  
10 exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or  
11 near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if  
12 the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway,  
13 then on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be  
14 linked to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic  
15 alarm is activated.

16 The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be  
17 issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development  
18 Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the  
19 costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including  
20 county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of  
21 the panic alarms and emergency lights.