

**ASSEMBLY, No. 191**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**217th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

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**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Benson, Johnson, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Singleton, Giblin, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Eustace, Burzichelli, DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Jimenez and Assemblyman Holley**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/4/2016)

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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47 This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools  
48 be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency

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

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

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