

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3347

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

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

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**Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE**

**District 10 (Ocean)**

**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

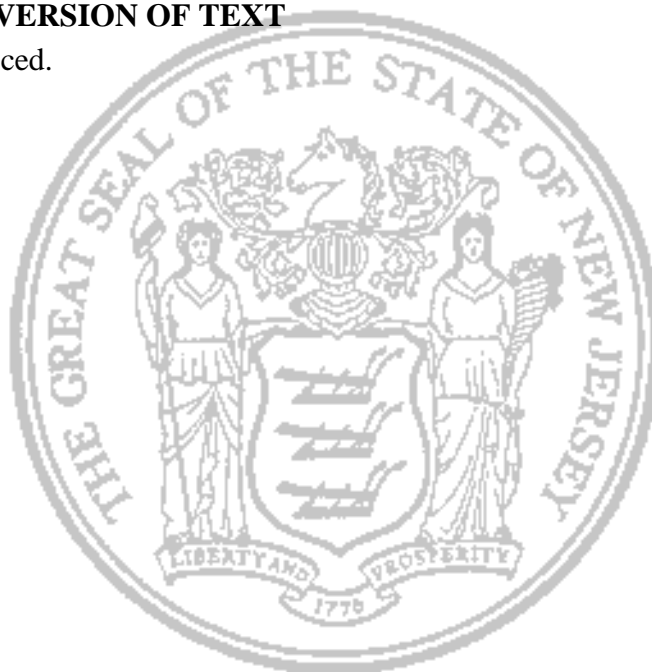
**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy in Department of Education and requires school districts to designate school safety specialist.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT concerning school safety and supplementing chapter 17 of  
2 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the  
8 New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy. It shall be the  
9 purpose of the academy to serve as a central repository for best  
10 practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in all  
11 matters regarding school safety and security, including prevention  
12 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness planning.  
13 The academy shall: provide ongoing professional development on  
14 national and State best practices, as well as the most current  
15 resources on school safety and security; assume a lead role in  
16 setting the vision for school safety and security in the State; and  
17 provide a coordinated and interdisciplinary approach to providing  
18 technical assistance and guidance to schools throughout the State.

19 b. The academy shall develop and implement a School Safety  
20 Specialist Certification Program. A school safety specialist  
21 appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be required to  
22 acquire the certification. The certification program shall provide  
23 training to newly-appointed school safety specialists in the areas of  
24 bullying, hazing, truancy, Internet safety, emergency planning,  
25 emergency drills, drugs, weapons, gangs and school policing, and  
26 any other areas deemed necessary by the academy. The academy  
27 shall also offer annual training sessions for certified school safety  
28 specialists. The academy shall develop training modules in both  
29 traditional and online formats.

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31 2. The superintendent in each school district shall designate a  
32 school safety specialist for the district. The school safety specialist  
33 shall: be responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school  
34 safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school  
35 district; ensure that these policies and procedures are in compliance  
36 with State law and regulations; and provide the necessary training  
37 and resources to school district staff in matters relating to school  
38 safety and security. The school safety specialist shall also serve as  
39 the school district liaison with local law enforcement and national,  
40 State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of  
41 school safety and security.

42

43 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after the date of  
44 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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48 This bill establishes in the Department of Education the New  
49 Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy. The purpose of the  
50 academy will be to serve as a central repository for best practices,

1 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters  
2 regarding school safety and security, including prevention efforts,  
3 intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness planning. Under  
4 the bill, the academy will develop and implement a School Safety  
5 Specialist Certification Program. This program will offer training  
6 to newly-appointed school safety specialists in the areas of bullying,  
7 hazing, truancy, Internet safety, emergency planning, emergency  
8 drills, drugs, weapons, gangs and school policing, and any other  
9 areas deemed necessary. The academy will also offer annual  
10 training sessions for certified school safety specialists.

11 The bill directs a school superintendent to designate a school  
12 safety specialist for the school district. The school safety specialist  
13 must complete the certification program developed by the academy.  
14 The school safety specialist will: be responsible for the supervision  
15 and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies,  
16 and procedures in the school district; ensure that these policies and  
17 procedures are in compliance with State law and regulations; and  
18 provide the necessary training and resources to school district staff  
19 in matters relating to school safety and security. The school safety  
20 specialist will also serve as the school district liaison with local law  
21 enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and  
22 organizations in matters of school safety and security.