

# SENATE, No. 1451

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator DIANE B. ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2016)**

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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#### 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.