

[Third Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 764**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

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**SYNOPSIS**

“Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped with panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 11, 2018, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2018)

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 <sup>1</sup>1. This act shall be known and may be cited as “Alyssa’s  
8 Law.”<sup>1</sup>

9

10 <sup>1</sup>**[1.]** 2.<sup>1</sup> a. As used in this section:

11 <sup>3</sup>**[**“Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the  
12 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or near  
13 the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is not  
14 clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that public  
15 roadway.**]**<sup>3</sup>

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

19 b. <sup>3</sup>**[Each]** Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection  
20 e. of this section, each<sup>3</sup> public elementary and secondary school  
21 building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a  
22 school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire  
23 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The alarm shall be  
24 directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the case of a  
25 school building located in a municipality in which there is no  
26 municipal police department, a location designated by the  
27 Superintendent of State Police, and shall immediately transmit a signal  
28 or message to such authorities upon activation. The alarm shall not be  
29 audible within the school building.

30 c. <sup>3</sup>**[**Each public elementary and secondary school building shall  
31 be equipped with an emergency light that is linked to the school’s  
32 panic alarm and which turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

33 <sup>2</sup>**d.]<sup>3</sup>** Each panic alarm <sup>3</sup>[and emergency light system]<sup>3</sup>  
34 required under this section shall adhere to nationally recognized  
35 industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire  
36 Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories.

37 <sup>3</sup>**[e.]** d.<sup>3</sup> Each panic alarm <sup>3</sup>[and emergency light system]<sup>3</sup>  
38 required under this section shall be installed solely by a person  
39 licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the  
40 provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).<sup>2</sup>

41 <sup>3</sup>**e.** A school district may equip its elementary and secondary  
42 school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 12, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 14, 2018.

<sup>3</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 11, 2018.

1 to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the Department of  
2 Education.<sup>3</sup>

3  
4 <sup>1</sup>**[2.]** 3.<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of  
5 section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) to the contrary, the  
6 proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the  
7 costs of SDA district school facilities projects or the State share of the  
8 costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county  
9 vocational school districts, shall be used to fund the full cost of the  
10 panic alarms <sup>3</sup>**[and emergency lights]**<sup>3</sup> required in public elementary  
11 and secondary school buildings in any district pursuant to section <sup>3</sup>**[1]**  
12 2<sup>3</sup> of this act <sup>3</sup>or alternative emergency mechanisms approved by the  
13 department pursuant to that section. A school district that, prior to the  
14 effective date of this act, installed a panic alarm or alternative  
15 emergency mechanism approved by the department may receive  
16 reimbursement for those costs<sup>3</sup>.

17  
18 <sup>1</sup>**[3.]** 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth  
19 month after enactment.