

SENATE, No. 2851

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Holzapfel and Singer

SYNOPSIS

Requires boards of education and school bus contractors employ certain school bus safety personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/27/2018)

1 AN ACT requiring certain school bus safety personnel and
2 supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. A board of education or a contractor that provides pupil
9 transportation services under contract with a board of education
10 shall employ the appropriate number of school bus safety managers,
11 as established by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
12 Vehicle Commission pursuant to section 2 of this act. A school bus
13 safety manager's responsibilities shall include: ensuring compliance
14 with State and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding school
15 bus safety; providing periodic training in the proper use of
16 emergency equipment; and the dissemination of industry best
17 practices for avoiding accidents.

18 b. A board of education or a contractor that provides pupil
19 transportation services under contract with a board of education
20 shall employ the appropriate number of supervisors of driver
21 improvement, as established by the Chief Administrator of the New
22 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission pursuant to section 2 of this act.
23 A supervisor of driver improvement's responsibilities shall include:
24 providing professional development, including individualized
25 behind the wheel training, to school bus drivers; and periodically
26 accompanying school bus drivers on their appointed school bus
27 routes.

28 c. A current employee who meets the qualifications established
29 by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
30 Commission pursuant to section 3 of this act may satisfy the
31 requirements of this section.

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33 2. The Commissioner of Education may perform random audits
34 of a board of education or contractor to ensure compliance with the
35 provisions of section 1 of this act at any time. A board of education
36 or contractor shall require that each school bus safety manager and
37 supervisor of driver improvement that it employs completes the
38 documentation required pursuant to regulations promulgated by the
39 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
40 to demonstrate compliance. The board of education or contractor
41 shall retain copies of the documentation in accordance with those
42 regulations.

43
44 3. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
45 Commission shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the
46 "Administrative Procedures Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
47 seq.) to effectuate the provisions of this act. The regulations shall:
48 establish the appropriate number of school bus safety managers and

1 supervisors of driver improvement that a board of education or
2 contractor must employ based on the number of full-time, part-time,
3 substitute, and temporary school bus drivers that the entity employs;
4 the qualifications necessary for an individual to be employed as a
5 school bus safety manager or supervisor of driver improvement; and
6 the documentation that a board of education or contractor must
7 retain to demonstrate compliance with this act, including the
8 amount of time that the documentation must be retained.

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10 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
11 applicable to the first full school year following the date of
12 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill requires that boards of education and contractors that
18 provide school transportation services under contract with boards of
19 education employ certain school bus safety personnel. These
20 entities would be required to employ school bus safety managers,
21 whose responsibilities would include: ensuring compliance with
22 State and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding school bus
23 safety; providing periodic training in the proper use of emergency
24 equipment; and the dissemination of industry best practices for
25 avoiding accidents. These entities would also be required to
26 employ supervisors of driver improvement, whose responsibilities
27 would include: providing professional development, including
28 individualized behind the wheel training, to school bus drivers; and
29 periodically accompanying school bus drivers on their appointed
30 school bus routes.

31 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education would be
32 authorized to audit compliance with the bill's provisions. The
33 school bus safety personnel would be required to complete, and the
34 board of education or contractor would be required to retain,
35 documentation to demonstrate compliance.

36 The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
37 Commission would promulgate regulations that: stipulate the
38 appropriate number of personnel that must be employed based on
39 the number of school bus drivers employed by the board of
40 education or contractor; the qualifications necessary to hold the
41 position; and the documentation that must be retained to
42 demonstrate compliance with the bill's provisions.