

ASSEMBLY, No. 623

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Tucker, Jasey and Assemblyman Benson

SYNOPSIS

Requires nonpublic 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.



1 **AN ACT** concerning nonpublic school security alarms and
2 supplementing chapter 41 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:*

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8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the
10 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or
11 near the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is
12 not clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that
13 public roadway.

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

18 b. Each nonpublic elementary and secondary school building
19 within this State shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for
20 use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a
21 non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The
22 alarm shall be directly linked to local law enforcement authorities
23 or, in the case of a nonpublic school building located in a
24 municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a
25 location designated by the Superintendent of State Police, and shall
26 immediately transmit a signal or message to such authorities upon
27 activation. The alarm shall not be audible within the school
28 building.

29 c. Each nonpublic elementary and secondary school building
30 within this State shall be equipped with an emergency light that is
31 linked to the school’s panic alarm and which turns on when the
32 panic alarm is activated.

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34 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth month
35 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill requires that all nonpublic elementary and secondary
41 schools in this State be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a
42 school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire
43 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm,
44 which will not be audible within the school building, must be
45 directly linked to law enforcement authorities and must immediately
46 transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The
47 bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal
48 generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a

1 life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response
2 from law enforcement.

3 The bill also requires that all nonpublic elementary and
4 secondary schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is
5 affixed to the exterior of the school building in a highly visible
6 location above or near the front entrance or, if the school building is
7 not visible from the nearest public roadway, then on that roadway.
8 The emergency light must be linked to the school's panic alarm so
9 that it turns on when the panic alarm is activated.