

ASSEMBLY, No. 1358

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, Assemblywomen Murphy, McKnight,
Reynolds-Jackson, Downey, Mosquera and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Criminalizes tampering with school bus recordings; requires schools to have school bus video reviewed and to adopt plan for monthly inspection of cameras and video footage.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school bus safety, amending N.J.S.2C:28-7,
2 and supplementing 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 1. N.J.S.2C:28-7 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:28-7. Tampering with public records or information.

9 a. Offense defined. A person commits an offense if he:

10 (1) Knowingly makes a false entry in, or false alteration of, any
11 record, document or thing belonging to, or received or kept by, the
12 government for information or record, or required by law to be kept
13 by others for information of the government;

14 (2) Makes, presents, offers for filing, or uses any record,
15 document, or thing knowing it to be false, and with purpose that it
16 be taken as a genuine part of information or records referred to in
17 paragraph (1); or

18 (3) Purposely and unlawfully destroys, conceals, removes,
19 mutilates, or otherwise impairs the verity or availability of any such
20 record, document, or thing.

21 b. Grading. An offense under subsection a. is a disorderly
22 persons offense unless the actor's purpose is to defraud or injure
23 anyone, in which case the offense is a crime of the third degree.

24 c. A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
25 purposely and unlawfully alters, destroys, conceals, removes, or
26 disables any camera or other monitoring device including any
27 videotape, film, or other medium used to record sound or images
28 that is installed in a patrol vehicle or a school bus.

29 (cf: P.L.2001, c.219, s.1)

30

31 2. (New section) a. Each school district that uses cameras to
32 record images on school buses shall appoint an employee to
33 randomly review such recorded images during each month. Each
34 school district that contracts for the provision of school bus service
35 shall require that any such contract include a provision that
36 designates an individual to randomly review, once per month, the
37 recorded images pertaining to any school bus that uses cameras to
38 record images on the school bus.

39 b. Each school district that uses cameras to record images on
40 school buses shall submit a plan to the Commissioner of Education
41 for the monthly inspection of cameras and video footage from
42 school buses, which shall be subject to the approval of the
43 commissioner. The commissioner shall approve any plan deemed
44 sufficient to ensure that the cameras are operational and used
45 properly. If the commissioner deems a plan insufficient, the

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.

1 commissioner shall reject the plan, provide recommendations to
2 correct the insufficiencies, and, where appropriate, take such other
3 action as is necessary to bring the school into compliance with the
4 provisions of this subsection.

5

6 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
7 after enactment.

8

9

10 STATEMENT

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12 This bill provides that altering, destroying, concealing,
13 removing, or disabling any camera or other monitoring device
14 including any videotape, film, or other medium used to record
15 sound or images that is installed in a school bus is a crime of the
16 fourth degree.

17 The bill requires each school that uses cameras to record images
18 to have the images randomly reviewed once per month. The bill
19 also requires each school district to submit a plan to the
20 Commissioner of Education (commissioner) for the monthly
21 inspection of cameras and video footage from school buses, which
22 will be subject to the approval of the commissioner.