

ASSEMBLY, No. 1559

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT D. CLIFTON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school bus drivers to pass physical performance test to operate school bus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning school bus driver certifications and
2 supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. Every driver of a school bus, as defined in R.S.39:1-1, or
8 other vehicle used or operated under contract awarded by a board of
9 education or a private school for the transportation of pupils to and
10 from school shall, in addition to any other exam required by law,
11 submit to a physical performance test to assess a driver's ability to
12 operate a school bus or other vehicle used to transport pupils.

13 The physical performance test shall assess a driver's ability to
14 quickly and efficiently: exit a school bus from the front and back of
15 a school bus; operate a school bus door; operate the clutch and
16 break pedals of a school bus; perform alternate operation between
17 the break and accelerator pedals of a school bus; identify and
18 perform alternate operation between the right side and left side hand
19 controls; drag a weight of at least 125 pounds for at least 30 feet to
20 simulate the evacuation of pupils; and any other physical activity
21 that the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
22 Commission shall deem appropriate for the safe operation of a
23 school bus.

24 The physical performance test shall be administered upon each
25 initial issuance, and renewal thereof, of a school bus endorsement in
26 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the chief
27 administrator and subject to oversight by the commission.

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29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth
30 month following enactment and shall apply only to such special
31 licenses issued or renewed on or after this date. The Chief
32 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission may
33 take such anticipatory administrative actions in advance of the
34 effective date of this act as shall be necessary for the timely
35 implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill requires that, in addition to any other exam required by
41 law, every driver of a school bus or other vehicle used or operated
42 under contract awarded by a board of education or a private school
43 for the transportation of pupils to and from school to submit to a
44 physical performance test (test). The test is to assess a driver's
45 ability to operate a school bus or other vehicle used to transport
46 pupils.

47 Under the bill, the test is to assess a driver's ability to quickly
48 and efficiently: exit a school bus from the front and back of a

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1 school bus; operate a school bus door; operate the clutch and break
2 pedals of a school bus; perform alternate operation between the
3 break and accelerator pedals of a school bus; identify and perform
4 alternate operation between the right side and left side hand
5 controls; drag a weight of at least 125 pounds for at least 30 feet to
6 simulate the evacuation of pupils; and any other physical activity
7 that the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
8 Commission (commission) deems appropriate for the safe operation
9 of a school bus.

10 The bill requires the test to be administered upon each initial
11 issuance, and renewal thereof, of a school bus endorsement in
12 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Chief
13 Administrator of the commission and subject to oversight by the
14 commission.

15 It is the sponsor's intent that the test is to be similar to tests
16 administered to school bus drivers in other states, which include
17 Arizona, New York, North Carolina, and South Carolina.