

ASSEMBLY, No. 1796

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Excuses students with conflicts of conscience from certain class requirements of public institutions of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** excusing students with conflicts of conscience from certain
2 class requirements of public institutions of higher education and
3 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

5

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

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9 1. A student enrolled in a public institution of higher education
10 which requires the fulfillment of certain classes in health, family
11 life education or sexual education and does not authorize
12 substitutions for those classes, may present to that institution or to
13 the appropriate school official a signed statement that any part of
14 the instruction in those classes is in conflict with the student's
15 conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs and shall be
16 excused from that portion of the class where such instruction is
17 being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result
18 therefrom.

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 A student enrolled in a public institution of higher education may
26 be obligated to fulfill certain class requirements in health, family
27 life education or sexual education which are in conflict with the
28 student's conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs.
29 This bill excuses a student of a public institution of higher
30 education which requires the fulfillment of those classes, and which
31 does not authorize substitutions for those classes, by allowing the
32 student to present a signed statement to the proper school officials.
33 Moreover, no penalties as to credit or graduation will result for a
34 student who is legitimately excused from instruction that is in
35 conflict with the student's conscience. The provisions of this bill
36 mirror law currently in place (18A:35-4.7) regarding students
37 enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools.