

ASSEMBLY, No. 1936

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO

District 13 (Monmouth)

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District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Space, DePhillips, Thomson and Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Police to maintain 24-hour hotline for receiving anonymous tips regarding potential threats to school safety and security.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the reporting of school safety threats and
2 supplementing chapter 2 of Title 53 of the New Jersey 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. a. The Division of State Police in the Department of Law
8 and Public Safety shall maintain a 24-hour toll-free hotline for
9 receiving anonymous tips, by means of telephone or text messaging,
10 regarding potential threats to school safety and security. The
11 hotline shall allow students, parents, school staff members, and the
12 public to anonymously report information about unsafe, suspicious,
13 potentially harmful, dangerous, or criminal activities in schools, or
14 the threat of those activities including, but not limited to, incidents
15 of violence, assaults, suicide threats, and bullying. The Division of
16 State Police shall establish methods and procedures to ensure that
17 the identity of the reporting parties remains unknown to all persons
18 and entities, except in instances where the reporting party
19 voluntarily discloses his identity and verifies that his identity may
20 be shared with law enforcement officers and school officials.

21 b. The Division of State Police shall, as appropriate, share
22 information received through the hotline with the applicable local
23 law enforcement agencies and the superintendent of schools or the
24 chief school administrator of a nonpublic school in order to
25 facilitate prompt investigation and intervention.

26 c. The Division of State Police, in consultation with the
27 Department of Education, shall ensure that information about the
28 hotline is distributed to all public and nonpublic schools in the State
29 for dissemination to students and their families.

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31 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
32 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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37 This bill requires the Division of State Police to maintain a 24-
38 hour toll-free hotline for receiving anonymous tips, via telephone or
39 text message, regarding potential threats to school safety and
40 security. The purpose of the hotline is to allow students, parents,
41 school staff members, and the public to anonymously report
42 information about unsafe, suspicious, potentially harmful,
43 dangerous, or criminal activities in schools, or the threat of those
44 activities, including, but not limited to, incidents of violence,
45 assaults, suicide threats, and bullying. Under the bill, the identity
46 of the person who reports information to the hotline will remain
47 unknown, except when the reporting individual voluntarily

1 discloses his identity and verifies that his identity may be shared
2 with law enforcement officers and school officials.
3 The bill requires the State Police to share information received
4 through the hotline with the applicable local law enforcement
5 agencies and the superintendent of schools or the chief school
6 administrator of a nonpublic school in order to facilitate prompt
7 investigation and intervention. Under the bill, information about
8 the hotline will be distributed to all public and nonpublic schools in
9 the State for dissemination to students and their families.