

ASSEMBLY, No. 1947

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 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Directs school districts to establish policies and require training for employees on issues regarding child sexual abuse.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning child sexual abuse awareness and
2 supplementing chapter 36 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. A school district shall establish a policy designed to increase
9 staff, student, and parent awareness of sexual abuse of children. The
10 policy shall address issues including knowledge of warning signs that
11 a child may be a sexual abuse victim, prevention techniques, actions
12 that a child victim should take to obtain assistance, and available
13 counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse.

14 b. A school district's policy under subsection a. of this section
15 shall require that teachers and other school employees complete
16 training which includes, at a minimum, information regarding the
17 following:

18 (1) factors indicating that a child is at risk for sexual abuse;

19 (2) recognition of warning signs indicating that a child may be a
20 victim of sexual abuse;

21 (3) internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who is a
22 victim of sexual abuse or is at risk for sexual abuse, including referral
23 to a school counselor, social worker, or another mental health
24 professional; and

25 (4) techniques for reducing a child's risk of sexual abuse.

26 c. A teaching staff member may satisfy in each annual
27 professional development period one or more hours of the professional
28 development requirement established by the State Board of Education
29 through participation in training programs on child sexual abuse
30 awareness and prevention.

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
33 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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36 STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires school districts to establish policies designed to
39 increase staff, student, and parent awareness of child sexual abuse.
40 The policy will address issues including knowledge of warning
41 signs that a child may be a sexual abuse victim, prevention
42 techniques, actions that a child victim should take to obtain
43 assistance, and available counseling options for students affected by
44 sexual abuse.

45 Under the bill, a school district's policy must require that
46 teachers and other school employees complete training that

1 includes, at a minimum, information on the following: (1) factors
2 indicating that a child is at risk for sexual abuse; (2) recognition of
3 warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual
4 abuse; (3) internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who
5 is a victim of sexual abuse or is at risk for sexual abuse, including
6 referral to available counseling options; and (4) techniques for
7 reducing a child's risk of sexual abuse.

8 The bill provides that a teaching staff member may satisfy in
9 each annual professional development period one or more hours of
10 the professional development requirement established by the State
11 Board of Education through participating in training programs on
12 child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.