

ASSEMBLY, No. 3174

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State to reimburse school districts for costs of transporting homeless students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the reimbursement of certain transportation
2 costs incurred by school districts and amending P.L.1989, c.290
3 and P.L.2015, c.228.

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

7
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1989, c.290 (C.18A:7B-12.1) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 3. a. The district of residence for a homeless child determined
11 pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12) shall be
12 responsible for the education of the homeless child. The district of
13 residence shall determine the educational placement of the child
14 after consulting with the parent or guardian. This determination
15 shall be: a. to continue the child's education in the school district of
16 last attendance, b. to enroll the child in the district of residence if
17 the district of residence is not the district of last attendance, or c. to
18 enroll the child in the school district where the child is temporarily
19 living, whichever is in the child's best interest. If the parent or
20 guardian objects to the determination made by the district of
21 residence, the executive county superintendent of schools shall be
22 notified and within 48 hours shall determine the placement of the
23 child based on criteria established by the State Board of Education.
24 Any appeals regarding the determination shall be resolved
25 according to rules established by the State Board of Education.

26 When the homeless child attends school in a district other than
27 the district of residence, the district of residence shall pay the costs
28 of tuition for the child to attend school in that district~~and shall pay~~
29 ~~for any transportation costs incurred by that district~~; except that in
30 the case of a child who has resided in a domestic violence shelter,
31 homeless shelter, or transitional living facility located in a district
32 other than the district of residence for more than one year, the State
33 shall pay the costs of tuition for the child to attend school in that
34 district. When the homeless child attends school in the district of
35 residence while temporarily residing in another district, the district
36 of residence shall provide for transportation to and from school
37 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.18A:58-7].

38 b. The State shall reimburse the district that provides
39 transportation to and from school to a homeless child pursuant to
40 subsection a. of this section for the costs of transporting the child.

41 (cf: P.L.2017, c.83, s.2)

42
43 2. Section 1 of P.L.2015, c.228 (C.18A:7B-12.3) is amended to
44 read as follows:

45 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.18A:38-1, section

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 19 of P.L.1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12), or section 3 of P.L.1989,
2 c.290 (C.18A:7B-12.1), or any other section of law to the contrary,
3 any student who moves from one school district to another as a
4 result of being homeless due to an act of terrorism or due to a
5 natural disaster which results in the declaration of a State of
6 emergency or disaster by the State or by the federal government,
7 may continue to enroll in the school district in which the parent or
8 guardian last resided prior to becoming homeless for up to two full
9 school years after the act of terrorism or natural disaster; and during
10 the two-year period, if the student is enrolled in the district in which
11 the parent or guardian last resided prior to becoming homeless and
12 the student's parent or guardian remains homeless for that period,
13 the student shall attend that district tuition-free and that district
14 shall provide the student transportation to and from school. The
15 State shall reimburse the district for the costs of transporting the
16 student.

17 (cf: P.L.2015, c.228, s.1)

18

19 3. This act shall take effect on July 1 next following the date of
20 enactment.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 Under current law, a homeless student's district of residence is
26 responsible for paying for any costs of transporting the student to
27 and from school. This bill provides that the State will reimburse the
28 school district for these costs.