

ASSEMBLY, No. 3555

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide Rapid Response Emergency Group.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a Statewide Rapid Response Emergency
2 Group and supplementing P.L.2017, c.63.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. For the purposes of this act, "severe weather conditions"
8 means weather related flood, hurricane, nor'easter, snowstorm,
9 tornado, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, or other
10 catastrophe which is of sufficient severity and magnitude to
11 substantially endanger the health, safety, and property of the
12 residents of this State.

13
14 2. a. There is established in the State Office of Emergency
15 Management the Statewide Rapid Response Emergency Group.

16 b. The group shall consist of the following persons or their
17 designees, ex officio:

18 (1) the Director of the State Office of Emergency Management;

19 (2) the coordinator of each county office of emergency
20 management;

21 (3) the Commissioner of Transportation;

22 (4) the Commissioner of Education;

23 (5) the Secretary of Higher Education;

24 (6) the Executive County Superintendent of Schools of each
25 county;

26 (7) the President of the New Jersey State League of
27 Municipalities; and

28 (8) the President of the New Jersey Business and Industry
29 Association.

30 c. The group shall develop a Statewide plan to rapidly respond
31 to severe weather conditions. The group specifically shall:

32 (1) develop protocols for real-time monitoring of weather
33 forecasts;

34 (2) establish effective means of communication between
35 members of the group and other State officials responsible for
36 weather-related decision making;

37 (3) identify objective criteria for deploying snow plows and
38 other snow removal equipment;

39 (4) ascertain methods to maintain the flow of traffic throughout
40 the State, including staggering dismissals of schools and businesses,
41 closing roads, and rerouting traffic; and

42 (5) any other matter deemed necessary to effectively respond to
43 severe weather conditions.

44 d. The plan shall be developed within six months of the
45 effective date of this act. The group shall annually update the plan
46 to incorporate technological and other innovations.

1 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
2 next following enactment, except that the Director of the State
3 Office of Emergency Management may take any anticipatory
4 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the
5 implementation of this act.

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8 STATEMENT

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10 This bill establishes the Statewide Rapid Response Emergency
11 Group which is required to develop a Statewide plan to rapidly
12 respond to severe weather conditions.

13 The group is to consist of the Director of the State Office of
14 Emergency Management, the coordinator of each county office of
15 emergency management, the Commissioner of Transportation, the
16 Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, the
17 Executive County Superintendent of Schools of each county; the
18 President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, and the
19 President of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association.

20 The group specifically is directed by the bill to:

21 (1) develop protocols for real-time monitoring of weather
22 forecasts;

23 (2) establish effective means of communication between
24 members of the group and other State officials responsible for
25 weather-related decision making;

26 (3) identify objective criteria for deploying snow plows and
27 other snow removal equipment;

28 (4) ascertain methods to maintain the flow of traffic throughout
29 the State, including staggering dismissals of schools and businesses,
30 closing roads, and rerouting traffic; and

31 (5) any other matter deemed necessary to effectively respond to
32 severe weather conditions.

33 The bill requires the plan to be developed within six months of
34 the effective date of this act. The group is to annually update the
35 plan to incorporate technological and other innovations.