

ASSEMBLY, No. 4964

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Permits school districts to apply to DOE for reimbursement of costs of ultraviolet-C lights and air filter units for addressing transmission of COVID-19.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/12/2020)

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

(3) the safe and proper use of the ultraviolet-C lights for purposes of sanitizing classrooms.

b. Within 30 days of receipt of a school district's application for reimbursement, the department shall determine whether a school district is eligible for reimbursement. Within 60 days of the department's eligibility determination, the department shall reimburse an eligible school district for the costs of the ultraviolet-C lights and air filter units.

32 c. Total reimbursement by the department under this act shall
33 not exceed \$1,000,000.

35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

In response to the public health emergency presented by COVID-19, and pursuant to Executive Order 104 of 2020, schools across the State were required to cease in-person instruction and transition to virtual and remote learning as of March 18, 2020. When the time comes for students and school staff to return to the classroom, it will be imperative that there are appropriate cleaning and disinfecting procedures in place to ensure a safe and clean learning environment.

1 Under the bill, a board of education that determines to purchase
2 ultraviolet-C (UVC) lights or air filter units for school buildings in
3 the school district for the purpose of addressing the transmission of
4 COVID-19 may apply to the Department of Education (DOE) for
5 reimbursement of the costs of the purchase.

6 The DOE, in consultation with the Department of Health, may
7 develop guidelines concerning: (1) the appropriate type of UVC
8 lights needed to adequately sanitize a school building; (2) the
9 appropriate type of air filter units needed to address the airborne
10 transmission of COVID-19; and (3) the safe and proper use of the
11 UVC lights for purposes of sanitizing classrooms.

12 Under the bill, the DOE will establish application guidelines and
13 eligibility criteria for reimbursement. Within 30 days of receipt of
14 a school district's application, the DOE will determine whether a
15 school district is eligible for reimbursement. The DOE will
16 reimburse eligible school districts for the costs of the UVC lights
17 and air filter units within 60 days of its eligibility determination.
18 Total reimbursement by the DOE for UVC lights and air filter units
19 will not exceed \$1,000,000.