

SENATE, No. 277

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

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Senator Addiego

SYNOPSIS

“Emma’s Law”; requires school buses that transport students with special needs to be equipped with certain safety features.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Transportation Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/8/2020)

1 **AN ACT** requiring certain school buses to be equipped with certain
2 equipment, designated as Emma’s Law, and supplementing Title
3 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. Every school bus, as defined in R.S.39:1-1, that
9 transports one or more students with special needs shall be
10 equipped with:

11 (1) a video camera on the interior of the school bus to monitor
12 student safety while the students are being transported;

13 (2) a global positioning system that provides information about
14 the location and speed of each school bus in real time; and

15 (3) two-way communications equipment, which may include,
16 but not be limited to, a cellular or other wireless telephone.

17 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a school bus
18 driver shall comply with the provisions of section 1 of P.L.2002,
19 c.120 (C.39:3B-25) while operating a school bus.

20 c. Any video footage collected from a video camera and any
21 global positioning system data collected from the global positioning
22 system pursuant to this section shall not be considered a
23 government record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.),
24 P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.), or the common law concerning
25 access to government records.

26
27 2. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
28 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, shall promulgate, pursuant to
29 the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
30 et seq.), rules and regulations concerning: the installation and use of
31 video cameras, global positioning systems, and two-way
32 communications equipment as required pursuant to section 1 of
33 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
34 on school buses that transport students with special needs; the use
35 of data collected from the global positioning systems; and the
36 retention of video footage from the video cameras, including, but
37 not limited to, a minimum and maximum amount of time that
38 footage may be retained.

39
40 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
41 after enactment, but the Commissioner of Education and the Chief
42 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission may
43 take such administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for
44 the implementation of this act.