

SENATE, No. 711

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes School Transportation Safety Commission in Department of Law and Public Safety.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a School Transportation Safety Commission
2 and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. a. The School Transportation Safety Commission is created
8 and established in the Executive Branch of the State Government.
9 For the purposes of complying with the provisions of Article V,
10 Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the
11 commission is allocated in the Department of Law and Public
12 Safety, but notwithstanding this allocation, the commission shall be
13 independent of any supervision or control by the department or any
14 board or officer thereof.

15 The commission shall consist of eight members, including the
16 Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the
17 Department of Law and Public Safety, or a designee, who shall
18 serve ex-officio, the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
19 Vehicle Commission, or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio, and
20 the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall serve ex-
21 officio, and five public members to be appointed by the Governor.

22 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a
23 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:
24 one member shall serve for a term of one year; two members shall
25 serve for terms of two years; and two members shall serve for terms
26 of three years. Public members shall be eligible for reappointment.
27 They shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified,
28 and the term of the successor of any incumbent shall be calculated
29 from the expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy
30 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same
31 manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired term
32 only.

33 c. The members of the commission shall serve without
34 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all
35 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

36 d. The commission annually shall elect a chair from among its
37 members. It shall meet upon the call of the chair or of a majority of
38 the commission members. The presence of a majority of the
39 authorized membership of the commission shall be required for the
40 conduct of official business.

41 e. The commission shall appoint an executive director, who
42 shall serve at its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training
43 and experience to perform the duties of the office.

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45 2. The commission shall have the following responsibilities
46 and duties:

47 a. to review State regulations pertaining to school bus safety;

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b. to prepare a biannual report on school bus safety that includes a review of student transportation safety records and data; and

c. to identify the status of the implementation of past recommendations for additional action or oversight made by the Transportation Task Force of the Commission on Business Efficiency of the Public Schools or of any other task force formed to improve school bus safety.

3. a. The commission is authorized to call upon any department, office, division or agency of the State, or of any county, municipality or school district of the State, to supply such data, program reports and other information, personnel and assistance as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this act.

b. These departments, offices, divisions and agencies shall, to the extent possible, and not inconsistent with any other law of this State, cooperate with the commission and shall furnish it with such information, personnel and assistance as may be necessary or helpful to accomplish the purposes of this act.

4. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the School Transportation Safety Commission in, but not of, the Department of Law and Public Safety. The commission will consist of eight members, including the Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the Department of Law and Public Safety, the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, and the Commissioner of Education, or their designees, serving ex-officio, and five public members. Public members will be appointed by the Governor.

The commission will have the following responsibilities and duties: review State regulations pertaining to school bus safety, prepare a biannual report on school bus safety that includes a review of student transportation safety records and data; and identify the status of the implementation of the recommendations for additional action or oversight made by the Transportation Task Force of the Commission on Business Efficiency of the Public Schools or of any other task force formed to improve school bus safety.

Edmond Bock IV, a first grade student at Atco Elementary School, was tragically struck by a school bus and killed on January 6, 2014. The sponsor seeks to improve safety in student transportation through this bill and other legislation.