

SENATE, No. 1154

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOE to develop guidelines for school districts and charter schools concerning school discipline that are consistent with certain federal guidance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school discipline and supplementing chapter 37
2 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6
7 1. a. The Department of Education, within 180 days of the
8 effective date of this act, shall develop and distribute to school
9 districts and charter schools guidelines on school discipline. The
10 purpose of the guidelines shall be to assist school districts and
11 charter schools in enhancing school climate and improving school
12 discipline policies and practices, including ensuring that discipline
13 practices are applied in an equitable and nondiscriminatory manner.

14 b. The school discipline guidelines developed pursuant to
15 subsection a. of this section shall be consistent with the federal
16 school discipline guidance package issued in January 2014 by the
17 United States Department of Education and the United States
18 Department of Justice, including the January 8, 2014 Dear
19 Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of
20 School Discipline and the January 2014 document entitled “Guiding
21 Principles: A Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and
22 Discipline.”

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 In January 2014, the United States Department of Education, in
30 collaboration with the United States Department of Justice, issued a
31 school discipline guidance package to assist states and schools in
32 improving school discipline practices and ensuring that such
33 practices are nondiscriminatory. This bill directs the New Jersey
34 Department of Education to develop school discipline guidelines to
35 assist local school districts and charter schools in enhancing school
36 climate and improving school discipline policies and practices,
37 including ensuring that discipline practices are applied in an
38 equitable and nondiscriminatory manner. The school discipline
39 guidelines developed by the Department of Education under the bill
40 are required to be consistent with the federal school discipline
41 guidance package, including the January 8, 2014 Dear Colleague
42 Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School
43 Discipline and the January 2014 document entitled “Guiding
44 Principles: A Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and
45 Discipline.”