

SENATE, No. 1338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires superintendent to assume responsibilities of principal in certain school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the responsibilities of a superintendent in
2 certain school districts and supplementing chapter 17 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
9 contrary, in any district having one school and an enrollment in the
10 school of less than 500 students on the October 15 next following
11 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill), the board of education shall require that the
13 superintendent assume the responsibilities of the principal for that
14 school. The superintendent shall assume the responsibilities upon
15 the expiration of the contracts with the superintendent and the
16 principal in effect on the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
17 before the Legislature as this bill).

18 b. If a school in a district having one school has an enrollment
19 of 500 students or greater on the October 15 next following the
20 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
21 this bill), the superintendent shall not be required to assume the
22 responsibilities of the principal in a subsequent school year unless
23 the school's enrollment is less than 500 students on October 15 in
24 any three consecutive school years.

25 c. A school district that has assigned the responsibilities of the
26 principal to the superintendent pursuant to the provisions of
27 subsections a. and b. of this section shall continue to assign such
28 responsibilities to the superintendent unless the school's October 15
29 enrollment increases to at least 750 students in a subsequent school
30 year.

31 d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any school
32 district that shares a superintendent with another school district
33 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1996, c.111 (C.18A:17-
34 24.1 et seq.).

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill requires that the superintendent in a school district with
42 one school perform the responsibilities of the school principal if the
43 school has fewer than 500 students enrolled in that school on the
44 October 15 following the effective date of the bill. In subsequent
45 years, to ensure stability as enrollment changes, a school district
46 with one school in which the enrollment falls below 500 students
47 would not have to modify the superintendent's responsibilities until
48 the enrollment remained below the threshold for three consecutive

1 years. Similarly, a district that was previously required to assign
2 the principal's responsibilities to the superintendent would continue
3 to do so unless the school's enrollment increases to at least 750
4 students. The provisions of this bill would not apply to a school
5 district that shares its superintendent with another school district.

6 The purpose of this bill is to enhance operational efficiencies in
7 small school districts. Smaller districts lack the economies of scale
8 found in larger districts and, as a consequence, tend to spend
9 significantly more per pupil on administration. This bill would
10 provide for a reduction of administrative costs and would allow the
11 districts to target the savings to the classroom or towards property
12 tax relief.