

SENATE, No. 1647

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires boards of education and school bus contractors to designate individuals as certain school bus safety personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring certain school bus safety personnel and
2 supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 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. A board of education or a contractor that provides pupil
9 transportation services under contract with a board of education shall
10 designate at least one individual to serve as a school bus safety
11 manager, or as a supervisor of driver improvement. A school bus
12 safety manager's responsibilities shall include: ensuring compliance
13 with State and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding school bus
14 safety; providing periodic training in the proper use of emergency
15 equipment; and the dissemination of industry best practices for
16 avoiding accidents. A supervisor of driver improvement's
17 responsibilities shall include: providing professional development,
18 including individualized behind the wheel training, to school bus
19 drivers; and periodically accompanying school bus drivers on their
20 appointed school bus routes.

21 b. A current employee who meets the qualifications established
22 pursuant to section 3 of this act may satisfy the requirements of this
23 section.

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25 2. The Commissioner of Education may perform random audits
26 of a board of education or contractor to ensure compliance with the
27 provisions of section 1 of this act at any time. A board of education
28 or contractor shall require that each school bus safety manager and
29 supervisor of driver improvement that it has designated completes
30 the documentation required pursuant to regulations promulgated by
31 the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
32 Commission, in consultation with the Department of Education, to
33 demonstrate compliance. The board of education or contractor shall
34 retain copies of the documentation in accordance with those
35 regulations.

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37 3. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
38 Commission, in consultation with the Department of Education,
39 shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the "Administrative
40 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate
41 the provisions of this act. The regulations shall establish the
42 qualifications necessary for an individual to be designated as a
43 school bus safety manager or supervisor of driver improvement and
44 the documentation that a board of education or contractor is
45 required to retain to demonstrate compliance with this act, including
46 the amount of time that the documentation is required to be
47 retained.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
2 applicable to the first full school year following the date of
3 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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8 This bill requires that boards of education and contractors that
9 provide school transportation services under contract with boards of
10 education designate at least one individual to serve as a school bus
11 safety manager or supervisor of driver improvement. The bill requires
12 these entities to designate individuals to serve as school bus safety
13 managers, whose responsibilities are to include: ensuring compliance
14 with State and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding school bus
15 safety; providing periodic training in the proper use of emergency
16 equipment; and the dissemination of industry best practices for
17 avoiding accidents. A supervisor of driver improvement's
18 responsibilities would include: providing professional development,
19 including individualized behind the wheel training, to school bus
20 drivers; and periodically accompanying school bus drivers on their
21 appointed school bus routes.

22 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to
23 audit compliance with the bill's provisions. The school bus safety
24 personnel is required to complete, and the board of education or
25 contractor is required to retain, documentation to demonstrate
26 compliance.

27 The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
28 Commission, in consultation with the Department of Education, is to
29 promulgate regulations that establish the qualifications necessary for
30 an individual to be designated to serve as a school bus safety manager
31 or supervisor of driver improvement and the documentation that is
32 required to be retained to demonstrate compliance with the bill's
33 provisions.