

SENATE, No. 2401

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits public school students and employees from immediately returning to school after leaving country during certain public health emergencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the presence of certain persons in public
2 schools during a public health emergency and supplementing
3 chapter 40 of Title 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. If a student, teaching staff member, or other employee of
9 a school district travels outside of the United States during a state of
10 public health emergency, as declared by the Governor pursuant to
11 the “Emergency Health Powers Act,” P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
12 seq.) due to the spread of a contagious disease, then the person shall
13 not return to the public school until the termination of the public
14 health emergency, or the completion of 14 calendar days following
15 the date of return to the United States, whichever occurs first.

16 b. A public school student whose absence is mandated pursuant
17 to subsection a. of this section shall have the absence recorded as an
18 excused absence on the student’s attendance record or on that of
19 any group or class of which the student is a member. Any
20 transcript, application, employment form, or any similar form on
21 which information concerning a student’s attendance record is
22 requested shall not include information concerning absences
23 mandated pursuant to subsection a. of this subsection.

24 c. A teaching staff member or other employee of a school
25 district whose absence is mandated pursuant to subsection a. of this
26 section shall be entitled to compensation, benefits, and emoluments
27 as if the person had performed the work during the period of
28 absence. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit,
29 supersede, or preempt the rights, privileges, compensation,
30 remedies, and procedures afforded to a teaching staff member or
31 other employee of a school district, or a collective bargaining unit
32 under federal or State law or any provision of a collective
33 negotiations agreement entered into by the school district.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill prohibits the students and employees of a school district
41 from immediately returning to the public school after traveling
42 outside of the United States during certain public health
43 emergencies.

44 Under the bill, if a student, teaching staff member, or other
45 employee of a school district travels outside of the United States
46 during a state of public health emergency, as declared by the
47 Governor pursuant to the “Emergency Health Powers Act,”
48 P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) due to the spread of a

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1 contagious disease, then the person would not be permitted to return
2 to the public school until the termination of the public health
3 emergency, or the completion of 14 calendar days following the
4 date of return to the United States, whichever occurs first.

5 The bill also provides that any student whose absence is
6 mandated under the bill would have that absence recorded as an
7 excused absence on the student's attendance record. Additionally,
8 any school district employee whose absence is mandated under the
9 bill would be entitled to compensation, benefits, and emoluments as
10 if the person had performed his work responsibilities during the
11 period of absence.