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SENATE, No. 2401

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

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SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on August 20, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2020)

AN ACT concerning the presence of certain persons in public schools during a public health emergency and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. a. If a student, teaching staff member, or other employee of a school district travels outside of the United States [1]or inside of a designated state[1] during a state of public health emergency, as declared by the Governor pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) due to the spread of a contagious disease, then the person shall not return to the public school until the termination of the public health emergency, [1]**[**or**]**[1] the completion of 14 calendar days following the date of return to the [1]**[**United States**]** State of New Jersey, or the removal of the designated state from the quarantine travel advisory[1], whichever occurs first.

b. A public school student whose absence is mandated pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall have the absence recorded as an excused absence on the student's attendance record or on that of any group or class of which the student is a member. [1]**[**Any transcript, application, employment form, or any similar form on which information concerning a student's attendance record is requested shall not include information concerning absences mandated pursuant to subsection a. of this subsection.**]**[1]

c. [1]**[**A teaching staff member or other employee of a school district whose absence is mandated pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be entitled to compensation, benefits, and emoluments as if the person had performed the work during the period of absence. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, supersede, or preempt the rights, privileges, compensation, remedies, and procedures afforded to a teaching staff member or other employee of a school district, or a collective bargaining unit under federal or State law or any provision of a collective negotiations agreement entered into by the school district.**]** A student, teaching staff member, or other employee of a school district may participate in virtual or remote instruction during any period in which the person's physical absence is mandated pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

d. As used in this section:

"Designated state" means any state or territory of the United States that is included in a quarantine travel advisory.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
[1]Senate SED committee amendments adopted August 20, 2020.

"Quarantine travel advisory" means a travel advisory issued by the Governor or Department of Health that requires or encourages persons to be quarantined for 14 or more days after travel to a designated state, which travel advisory shall include, but not be limited to, the 14-day quarantine travel advisory issued jointly by the Governors of the State of New Jersey, the State of New York, and the State of Connecticut following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.[1]

2. This act shall take effect immediately.