

SENATE, No. 2438

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to release to school district upon request data and software program algorithms used to calculate State school aid.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the calculation of State school aid and
2 supplementing P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-43 et al.).
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
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7 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1995,
8 c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1 et seq.) or any other section of law to the
9 contrary, the Department of Education shall provide to any school
10 district that requests the information, the data for all school districts
11 used to calculate State school aid pursuant to P.L.2007, c.260
12 (C.18A:7F-43 et al.) and P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.),
13 including the data necessary to calculate and reconcile all school
14 districts' adequacy budgets, equalization aid, and local shares, and
15 the details of any adjustments made when the calculated local share
16 exceeds the adequacy budget for every such district in the State, and
17 the software program algorithms used by the department to
18 calculate State school aid, regardless of whether or not the
19 department considers the software program to be proprietary.

20 The department shall also provide a reconciliation, broken down
21 by district, that demonstrates that total local share plus total
22 equalization aid equals the total of all adequacy budgets Statewide
23 in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of P.L.2007, c.260
24 (C.18A:7F-52 and C.18A:7F-53).
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26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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29 STATEMENT

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31 This bill requires the Department of Education to provide to any
32 school district that requests the information, the data for all school
33 districts used to calculate State school aid, including the data
34 necessary to calculate and reconcile all school districts' adequacy
35 budgets, equalization aid, and local shares, and the details of any
36 adjustments made when the calculated local share exceeds the
37 adequacy budget for every such district in the State, and the
38 software program algorithms used by the department to calculate
39 State school aid. The department would be required to provide the
40 software program regardless of whether or not the department
41 considers the software program to be proprietary.

42 Under the bill's provisions, the department would also be
43 required to provide a reconciliation, broken down by district, that
44 demonstrates that total local share plus total equalization aid equals
45 the total of all adequacy budgets Statewide in accordance with
46 sections 10 and 11 of the "School Funding Reform Act of 2008"
47 (SFRA), P.L.2007, c.260.

1 As some school districts grapple with reductions in State school
2 aid under the provisions of P.L.2018 c.67 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.),
3 commonly referred to as S-2, it is only fair that increased
4 transparency on the State school aid calculations be provided to
5 school districts. These school districts need to have the information
6 required for them to determine that the State school aid formula has
7 been calculated correctly and in accordance with the law for all
8 school districts in the State.