

SENATE, No. 3167

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on dangers of electronic cigarette usage as part of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the public school curriculum and
2 supplementing chapter 35 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. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each school
9 district shall incorporate instruction on the dangers of electronic
10 cigarette usage into the health education curriculum for students in
11 grades six through 12 as part of the district's implementation of the
12 New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health
13 and Physical Education.

14 b. The instruction shall provide students with, at a minimum:

15 (1) statistics on the amount of nicotine in electronic cigarettes
16 manufactured by different companies;

17 (2) information on how the use of electronic cigarettes in middle
18 school and high school may lead to addiction to regular cigarettes,
19 other tobacco products, and drugs;

20 (3) information on the physical health effects of inhaling certain
21 chemicals that can be found in electronic cigarettes including, but
22 not limited to, nicotine, cannabidiol, tetrahydrocannabinol, diacetyl,
23 and formaldehyde; and

24 (4) information on the provisions of the "New Jersey Smoke-
25 Free Air Act," P.L.2005, c.383 (C.26:3D-55 et seq.), which
26 prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes on school grounds.

27 c. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
28 districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to
29 promote awareness of the dangers of electronic cigarette usage.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill would require each school district to incorporate
37 instruction on the dangers of electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) usage
38 into the health education curriculum for students in grades six
39 through 12 as part of the district's implementation of the New
40 Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and
41 Physical Education. The instruction would provide students with
42 information on, at a minimum: the amount of nicotine that can be
43 found in e-cigarettes manufactured by different companies; how the
44 use of e-cigarettes during adolescence can lead to addiction; the
45 physical health effects of inhaling certain chemicals that can be
46 found in e-cigarette products; and the provisions of the "New Jersey
47 Smoke-Free Air Act."

1 The use of e-cigarettes among middle school and high school
2 students has become a major public health concern as the use of
3 such devices has increased greatly over recent years. The federal
4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Tobacco
5 Survey indicates that, in 2011, just 1.5 percent of high school
6 students in the United States used e-cigarettes; in 2017, that number
7 increased to 11.7 percent. Similarly, in 2011, just 0.6 percent of
8 middle school students in the United States used e-cigarettes; in
9 2017, that number went up to 3.3 percent.

10 While the use of e-cigarettes has become a popular trend among
11 young people across the country, research indicates that using e-
12 cigarettes during youth can have negative health effects. For one,
13 most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is the addictive drug
14 found in regular cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products.
15 Reports have shown that nicotine levels in e-cigarettes are highly
16 variable, with some reaching levels near regular cigarettes. A 2016
17 United States Surgeon General report asserted that using nicotine in
18 adolescence can harm the developing brain and may increase the
19 risk for future addiction to regular cigarettes, other tobacco
20 products, and drugs. In addition, e-cigarettes can contain several
21 other substances, including cannabidiol, tetrahydrocannabinol,
22 diacetyl, and formaldehyde, which may be harmful to young users.

23 Lastly, what many students using e-cigarettes on school grounds
24 might not be aware of is that, pursuant to the “New Jersey Smoke-
25 Free Air Act,” the use of e-cigarettes on school property is
26 prohibited.