

SENATE, No. 3254

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program in which certain selected school districts equip school buses with global positioning systems and DOE develops school bus tracking application.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a school bus pilot program in the Department
2 of Education.

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

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7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish,
8 supervise, and fund a four-year pilot program in which a selected
9 school district shall equip each of its school buses with a global
10 positioning system in accordance with subsection b. of this section
11 and in which the Department of Education shall develop a school
12 bus tracking application in accordance with subsection c. of this
13 section. In order to be eligible for selection under the pilot
14 program, a school district shall own and operate its own fleet of
15 school buses. Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for
16 the pilot program, the commissioner shall, based on a competitive
17 application process, select at least one school district in each the
18 northern, central, and southern regions of the State. As used in this
19 section, “school bus” means a school bus as defined under
20 R.S.39:1-1.

21 b. A school district selected for participation in the pilot
22 program shall equip each of its school buses with a global
23 positioning system that provides information about the location and
24 speed of the school bus in real time. The global positioning system
25 shall transmit information to the mobile application developed
26 pursuant to subsection c. of this section. The global positioning
27 system shall be operational at all times the school bus is in use to
28 transport students. The installation of the global positioning system
29 and the data collected from the global positioning system shall
30 conform to guidelines to be issued by the commissioner, in
31 consultation with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

32 c. The commissioner, in consultation with the Office of
33 Information Technology and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
34 Commission, shall contract with a private or public entity to
35 develop and maintain a mobile application to be used by each
36 school district selected for participation in the pilot program. The
37 mobile application shall allow an authorized parent or guardian of a
38 student being transported by a school bus to track in real time the
39 location and speed of the school bus on which the student is riding.
40 The mobile application shall be capable of being accessed by an
41 authorized parent or guardian, through installation on the authorized
42 parent or guardian’s cellular telephone or other mobile electronic
43 devices and shall receive information from the global positioning
44 system installed on the school bus pursuant to subsection b. of this
45 section.

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47 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a four-year pilot program in which a selected school district will equip each of its school buses with a global positioning system (GPS) and in which the Department of Education will develop a school bus tracking application. To be eligible for selection under the pilot program, a school district is required to own and operate its own fleet of school buses. The commissioner will select at least one school district in each the northern, central, and southern regions of the State.

Each school district selected for participation in the pilot program will equip each of its school buses with a GPS, which will provide information about the location and speed of the school bus in real time and will be operational at all times the school bus is in use to transport students.

The GPS will transmit information to a mobile application that will allow an authorized parent or guardian of a student to track in real time the location and speed of the school bus on which the student is riding. The mobile application will be capable of being accessed by an authorized parent or guardian, through installation on the parent or guardian's cellular telephone or other mobile electronic devices. The bill requires the commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Information Technology and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, to contract with a private or public entity to develop and maintain the mobile application to be used by each school district selected for participation in the pilot program.