

SENATE, No. 3360

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education include content on risks of cannabis and marijuana use.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning substance abuse instruction in the public
2 schools and supplementing P.L.1987, c.389 (C.18A:40A-
3 1 et seq.).

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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. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
9 Division of Addiction Services in the Department of Human
10 Services, shall ensure the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
11 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education on substance abuse
12 instruction includes, for each grade three through 12, age-
13 appropriate instruction on:

14 a. the impact of cannabis and marijuana products on the
15 adolescent brain and body;

16 b. the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a psychoactive
17 substance in marijuana that produces the high associated with
18 smoking marijuana and which can also lead to central nervous
19 system depression;

20 c. the risks of addiction to cannabis and marijuana products;

21 d. the risks of driving while under the influence of cannabis or
22 marijuana products;

23 e. the difference between medicinal and recreational use of
24 cannabis and marijuana products; and

25 f. an examination of the external and internal influences that
26 may impact a person's decision to use or abstain from cannabis and
27 marijuana products.

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29 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of
30 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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35 Current law requires the New Jersey Student Learning Standards
36 in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education include content
37 on the nature and treatment of drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids,
38 tobacco, and controlled dangerous substances (N.J.S.A.18A:40A-
39 2.2). This bill requires the Department of Education, in
40 consultation with the Division of Addiction Services in the
41 Department of Human Services, to ensure the New Jersey Student
42 Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
43 Education on substance abuse instruction include specific age-
44 appropriate instruction, for each grade three through 12, on the use
45 of cannabis and marijuana products.

46 Under the bill, the learning standards must include:

- 47 • basic information about cannabis and marijuana products
48 and its impacts on the adolescent brain and body;

- 1 • the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a psychoactive
2 substance in marijuana that produces the high associated
3 with smoking marijuana and which can also lead to central
4 nervous system depression;
- 5 • the risks of addiction to cannabis and marijuana products;
- 6 • the risks of driving while under the influence of cannabis or
7 marijuana products;
- 8 • the difference between medicinal and recreational use of
9 cannabis and marijuana products; and
- 10 • an examination of the external and internal influences that
11 may impact a person's decision to use or abstain from
12 cannabis and marijuana products.