

SENATE, No. 820

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 18, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Division of School Desegregation in DOE to identify racial and socioeconomic segregation of school districts and to ensure better integration in public schools.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/14/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the desegregation of public schools and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the
8 Division of School Desegregation. The purpose of the division is to
9 identify instances of de facto racial and socioeconomic segregation
10 of school districts and to ensure better integration and a more
11 diverse enrollment in public schools.

12 b. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint the Director
13 of the Division of School Desegregation, who shall be qualified by
14 training and experience to perform the duties of the division, from
15 among current department employees. The director shall be a
16 person of recognized judgment, integrity, and objectivity, and shall
17 be skilled in communication, conflict resolution, and
18 professionalism.

19 c. The director shall organize and direct the work of the
20 division, including the work of such professional and clerical staff
21 as may be necessary to carry out the director's duties.

22

23 2. The duties of the Director of the Division of School
24 Desegregation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

25 a. compiling statistics on the racial, ethnic, and economic
26 composition of students for each public school in the State;

27 b. a comparative analysis of the educational outcomes of
28 students enrolled in highly-segregated schools with the educational
29 outcomes of students enrolled in more racially- and economically-
30 integrated schools;

31 c. reviewing housing patterns and State laws and regulations
32 which require students to attend schools in their resident districts;

33 d. reviewing and making recommendations to strengthen the
34 "Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act," P.L.2010, c.65
35 (C.18A:36B-14 et seq.) to:

36 (1) promote and increase participation in the program; and

37 (2) ensure that student population diversity in all districts
38 participating in a choice district program is maintained;

39 e. examining other states which have implemented programs
40 that have successfully increased the ethnic, racial, and economic
41 diversity of a school district's student population; and

42 f. the development of a strategic plan for increasing and
43 subsequently maintaining diversity in all school districts, which
44 plan may not be used to supersede a court-ordered or administrative
45 court-ordered desegregation plan. Within 180 days of the effective
46 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
47 bill), and every five years thereafter, the director shall adopt a new
48 strategic plan.

