

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: Yes

Committee meeting of Senate Transportation Committee [and] Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee: the Committees will meet to hear testimony from invited guests regarding school bus safety [June 18, 2018, Trenton, New Jersey].

Call number: 974.90 S372, 2018g

Available online at <https://dspace.njstatelib.org/handle/10929/48108>

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Gov. Phil Murphy signs school bus safety bills prompted by deadly Paramus crash," northjersey.com, December 17, 2018

"Fatal school bus crash leads to 4 new safety laws in NJ," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, December 17, 2018

"Fatal school bus crash leads to 4 safety laws in New Jersey," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, December 17, 2018

RWH/CL

P.L. 2018, CHAPTER 160, *approved December 17, 2018*
Assembly, No. 4345 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the training of school bus drivers and school
2 bus aides and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. a. As used in this section, “employer” means a board of
9 education or a contractor that provides pupil transportation services
10 under contract with a board of education.

11 b. An employer shall ensure that all school bus drivers and
12 school bus aides are properly trained for the functions of their
13 positions.

14 c. An employer shall administer a safety education program for
15 all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides
16 that it employs. At a minimum, the training shall include:

17 (1) student management and discipline;

18 (2) school bus accident and emergency procedures;

19 (3) conducting school bus emergency exit drills;

20 (4) loading and unloading procedures;

21 (5) school bus stop loading zone safety;

22 (6) inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the
23 end of a route; and

24 (7) the use of a student's education records, including the
25 employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and
26 the student's records, if applicable.

27 d. In addition to the training requirements in subsection c. of
28 this section, an employer shall administer to school bus drivers a
29 safety education program that includes defensive driving techniques
30 and railroad crossing procedures.

31 e. The employer shall administer the safety education program
32 set forth in subsections c. and d. of this section twice ¹[each
33 school] per calendar¹ year ¹[, once at the beginning of the school
34 year and once during the second semester]¹.

35

36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

37

38

39

40 Requires safety education training twice per calendar year for
41 school bus drivers and school bus aides.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted October 18, 2018.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4345

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 27, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DeAngelo

SYNOPSIS

Requires safety education training twice per school year for school bus drivers and school bus aides.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/28/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning the training of school bus drivers and school
2 bus aides and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section, “employer” means a board of
9 education or a contractor that provides pupil transportation services
10 under contract with a board of education.

11 b. An employer shall ensure that all school bus drivers and
12 school bus aides are properly trained for the functions of their
13 positions.

14 c. An employer shall administer a safety education program for
15 all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides
16 that it employs. At a minimum, the training shall include:

- 17 (1) student management and discipline;
18 (2) school bus accident and emergency procedures;
19 (3) conducting school bus emergency exit drills;
20 (4) loading and unloading procedures;
21 (5) school bus stop loading zone safety;
22 (6) inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the
23 end of a route; and
24 (7) the use of a student's education records, including the
25 employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and
26 the student's records, if applicable.

27 d. In addition to the training requirements in subsection c. of
28 this section, an employer shall administer to school bus drivers a
29 safety education program that includes defensive driving techniques
30 and railroad crossing procedures.

31 e. The employer shall administer the safety education program
32 set forth in subsections c. and d. of this section twice each school
33 year, once at the beginning of the school year and once during the
34 second semester.

35
36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

37

38

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STATEMENT

40

41 This bill codifies the State Board of Education regulation,
42 N.J.A.C.6A:27-11.3, on the safety education program that is
43 required to be provided by the employing board of education or
44 school bus contractor to all permanent and substitute school bus
45 drivers and school bus aides. The bill specifies, however, that the
46 safety education program must be provided twice every school year,
47 once at the beginning of the school year and once during the second
48 semester.

- 1 The safety education program must include, at a minimum:
- 2 • Student management and discipline;
 - 3 • School bus accident and emergency procedures;
 - 4 • Conducting school bus emergency exit drills;
 - 5 • Loading and unloading procedures;
 - 6 • School bus stop loading zone safety;
 - 7 • Inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the
 - 8 end of a route; and
 - 9 • The use of a student's education records, including the
 - 10 employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student
 - 11 and his records, if applicable.
- 12 In addition, in the case of a school bus driver, the program must
- 13 include defensive driving techniques and railroad crossing
- 14 procedures.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4345

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 18, 2018

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4345.

As amended and reported, this bill codifies the State Board of Education regulation, N.J.A.C.6A:27-11.3, on the safety education program that is required to be provided by the employing board of education or school bus contractor to all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides. The bill specifies that the safety education program must be provided twice per calendar year.

The safety education program must include, at a minimum:

- student management and discipline;
- school bus accident and emergency procedures;
- conducting school bus emergency exit drills;
- loading and unloading procedures;
- school bus stop loading zone safety;
- inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the end of a route; and
- the use of a student's education records, including the employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and his records, if applicable.

In addition, in the case of a school bus driver, the program must include defensive driving techniques and railroad crossing procedures.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that the training program be administered twice per calendar year, rather than once at the beginning of the school year and once during the second semester.

SENATE, No. 2853

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singer and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Requires safety education training twice per school year for school bus drivers and school bus aides.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/14/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning the training of school bus drivers and school
2 bus aides and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section, “employer” means a board of
9 education or a contractor that provides pupil transportation services
10 under contract with a board of education.

11 b. An employer shall ensure that all school bus drivers and
12 school bus aides are properly trained for the functions of their
13 positions.

14 c. An employer shall administer a safety education program for
15 all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides
16 that it employs. At a minimum, the training shall include:

- 17 (1) student management and discipline;
18 (2) school bus accident and emergency procedures;
19 (3) conducting school bus emergency exit drills;
20 (4) loading and unloading procedures;
21 (5) school bus stop loading zone safety;
22 (6) inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the
23 end of a route; and
24 (7) the use of a student's education records, including the
25 employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and
26 the student's records, if applicable.

27 d. In addition to the training requirements in subsection c. of
28 this section, an employer shall administer to school bus drivers a
29 safety education program that includes defensive driving techniques
30 and railroad crossing procedures.

31 e. The employer shall administer the safety education program
32 set forth in subsections c. and d. of this section twice each school
33 year, once at the beginning of the school year and once during the
34 second semester.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill codifies the State Board of Education regulation,
42 N.J.A.C.6A:27-11.3, on the safety education program that is
43 required to be provided by the employing board of education or
44 school bus contractor to all permanent and substitute school bus
45 drivers and school bus aides. The bill specifies, however, that the
46 safety education program must be provided twice every school year,
47 once at the beginning of the school year and once during the second
48 semester.

- 1 The safety education program must include, at a minimum:
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- 3 • School bus accident and emergency procedures;
- 4 • Conducting school bus emergency exit drills;
- 5 • Loading and unloading procedures;
- 6 • School bus stop loading zone safety;
- 7 • Inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the
- 8 end of a route; and
- 9 • The use of a student's education records, including the
- 10 employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student
- 11 and his records, if applicable.
- 12 In addition, in the case of a school bus driver, the program must
- 13 include defensive driving techniques and railroad crossing
- 14 procedures.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2853

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 26, 2018

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2853.

As reported, this bill codifies the State Board of Education regulation, N.J.A.C.6A:27-11.3, on the safety education program that is required to be provided by the employing board of education or school bus contractor to all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides. The bill specifies that the safety education program is required to be provided twice every school year, once at the beginning of the school year and once during the second semester.

The safety education program is to include, at a minimum:

- Student management and discipline;
- School bus accident and emergency procedures;
- Conducting school bus emergency exit drills;
- Loading and unloading procedures;
- School bus stop loading zone safety;
- Inspecting the school vehicle for students left on board at the end of a route; and
- The use of a student's education records, including the employee's responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and his records, if applicable.

In addition, in the case of a school bus driver, the program is to include defensive driving techniques and railroad crossing procedures.

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 2853

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator DIEGNAN)

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

This floor amendment provides that a safety education program for all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides will be administered twice per calendar year. The bill currently provides that the safety education program will be administered twice each school year, once at the beginning of the school year and once during the second semester.



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Newark, N.J.

Governor Murphy Signs School Bus Safety Legislation

12/17/2018

TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy today signed a package of school bus safety bills into law. This series of bills raises safety standards for school buses and school bus operators in the State of New Jersey.

“After the tragic school bus accident in Paramus earlier this year, it became clearer than ever that we must act to protect our children and educators through common sense school bus safety reforms,” **said Governor Murphy**. “Thanks to our actions in partnership with the Legislature, parents will be able to send their children to school knowing that school buses and school bus drivers are being held to extremely high standards designed to ensure the safety of students.”

The legislation signed by Governor Murphy today enshrines in law the following requirements:

- **A4339 (Swain, Tully, Benson, Jones/Diegnan, Lagana)** requires school bus operations in the State to comply with federal regulations concerning safety, noise emissions, insurance, and drug testing, among other areas.
- **A4345 (Tully, Swain, Benson, Jones/Diegnan, Holzapfel)** requires all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and aides to undergo safety education programs twice every year.
- **S2848 (Diegnan, Lagana/Tully, Swain, Benson, Jones)** requires holders of a bus driver license to submit a medical report by a certified medical examiner. It also requires bus drivers over age 70 to submit proof of physical fitness every year, and those over age 75 to submit this proof every six months.
- **S2850 (Lagana, Diegnan/Swain, Jones, Tully, Benson)** requires that when the Department of Education notifies a board of education or a school bus contractor that a school bus driver has had their bus driver license suspended or revoked, the board of education or school bus contractor must verify to DOE that the driver in question no longer operates a bus for them.

“The May accident involving a Paramus school bus that tragically killed an East Brook Middle School student and a teacher, in addition to leaving many others injured, was a nightmare scenario,” **said Senator Lagana**. “As parents, we should not have to worry about the safety of our children when they are on a school bus. This horrific accident prompted me to call for legislative hearings which raised questions about how we can make school buses safer, write tougher regulations relating to bus drivers and bus operators and how we monitor our children once they board a bus. This package of bills addresses these concerns and should ensure that no parent or child will have to go through what too many have endured these past few months.”

“This will help ensure that the school bus accidents like the ones we have seen over the past few months never happen again,” **said Senator Diegnan**. “The package of bills focuses on school bus operations and drivers to be

required to comply with both state and federal regulations. We want school bus drivers to be knowledgeable of how to handle a bus and know what the procedures are in the event an accident occurs. These new changes will go a long way in making sure we improve school bus safety for our children.”

"After witnessing so many tragic accidents in recent years, it's imperative that we advance meaningful improvements to school bus safety, including better training for drivers and aides," **said Senator James Holzapfel.** "Every parent deserves to know that their child is safe when they get on a school bus. That's exactly the intent of this comprehensive package of bills signed by the governor today."

"This terrible tragedy for our community occurred a week before Assemblyman Tully and I were sworn in, and we have made school bus safety our top priority because no parent should ever fear for their child when dropping them off at school," **said Assemblywoman Lisa Swain.** "These bills addressed major concerns discussed since May and should help parents and students feel safer about riding the school bus. I want to thank Governor Murphy for being one of our strongest allies on this issue and ensuring student safety is front and center."

"Seeing firsthand the way this tragedy affected the Paramus community, Assemblywoman Swain and I made it our priority to push through the necessary reforms as quickly as possible," **said Assemblyman Chris Tully.** "These crucial pieces of legislation ensure that drivers and aides have proper annual safety training, regular medical screenings to ensure physical fitness, and that unsafe bus drivers are immediately taken off the road to protect our children. I am thankful to my colleagues in the legislature and to Governor Murphy for joining us in taking critical action to protect our students."

"Having these safeguards in place will protect our students riding on school buses," **said Assemblyman Dan Benson.** "Safety is and must always be a priority when transporting our students to and from school. Each of these bills aims to strengthen transportation policy and state law to ensure safety is remains paramount in school districts across the state."

"Families deserve our full attention to the questions raised after the Paramus incident," **said Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones.** "Aligning state law with federal law and requiring certain medical screenings for drivers are two important steps toward ensuring stronger protections for student passengers."

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

THIS WEEK IN NEW JERSEY: DECEMBER 21, 2018



NJ TRANSIT MARKS 100 PERCENT COMPLETION OF PTC MILESTONE AND GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LEGISLATION REFORMING NJ TRANSIT

NJ TRANSIT marked 100-percent completion of the Federal Railroad Administration's 2018 year-end milestone for Positive Train Control. Criteria for this requirement included installation of equipment on locomotives and cab control cars, installation of 326 miles of wayside equipment

including radios, transponders and poles, as well as initiating PTC testing and employee training. The achievement means NJ TRANSIT can apply for an alternative schedule to have PTC fully operational by the end of 2020.

Governor Murphy also signed legislation to comprehensively reform NJ TRANSIT's governance and management to improve service and reliability for New Jersey commuters. The bill includes reforms to NJ TRANSIT's board of directors to make it more responsive to commuters; expands oversight over NJ TRANSIT, both by the public and the Legislature; institutes regular disclosure of accident and safety performance reports; strengthens whistleblower protections; and creates Customer Advocate and Chief Ethics Officer positions within the agency.

“Rebuilding NJ TRANSIT for the one million New Jersey residents who ride the trains and buses every day has been a priority since I began my campaign for Governor,” said Governor Murphy. “Thanks to our actions in partnership with our colleagues in the Legislature, NJ TRANSIT will now be able to direct its efforts more efficiently and effectively to improve safety, reliability, and services for commuters. I am proud to sign a bill into law that is committed to putting NJ TRANSIT on a positive track moving forward.”

READ MORE: [Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Reforming NJ TRANSIT](#)



MURPHY ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES RULES FOR STATE'S RE-ENTRY INTO REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE

Fulfilling his pledge to restore New Jersey to a national leadership role in the fight against climate change and sea-level rise, Governor Murphy today announced that the Department of Environmental Protection has formally proposed two rules that will steer New Jersey's re-entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

“Climate change and sea-level rise affect every one of us,” Governor Murphy said. “From Superstorm Sandy

to the powerful nor'easters and devastating flooding this year, it is imperative that New Jersey reclaim its leadership role in fighting back. Pulling out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in 2012 was not only an abdication of leadership, but it also cost us millions of dollars that could have been used to increase energy efficiency and improve air quality in our communities. This action is an important first

step toward restoring our place as a leader in the green economy and keeping us on a path to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 for the benefit of all New Jerseyans.”

READ MORE: [New Jersey Proposes Rules to Re-enter RGGI](#)

GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS SCHOOL BUS SAFETY LEGISLATION

Governor Murphy signed a package of school bus safety bills into law. This series of bills raises safety standards for school buses and school bus operators in the State of New Jersey.

“After the tragic school bus accident in Paramus earlier this year, it became clearer than ever that we must act to protect our children and educators through common sense school bus safety reforms,” said Governor Murphy. “Thanks to our actions in partnership with the Legislature, parents will be able to send their children to school knowing that school buses and school bus drivers are being held to extremely high standards designed to ensure the safety of students.”

READ MORE: [Governor Murphy Signs School Bus Safety Legislation](#)



ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEP COMMISSIONER FILE LAWSUIT CHALLENGING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ALLOW OFFSHORE DRILLING IN NJ

In an effort to prevent the federal government from allowing harmful drilling off the New Jersey coast, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe joined a multistate lawsuit to reverse federal approval of seismic testing along the eastern seaboard.

“New Jersey officials have consistently told Washington that we don’t want offshore drilling off our coast,” said Attorney General Grewal. “But the Federal Government is putting the fossil fuel industry above New Jersey residents, above our environment, and above the law. The Federal Government’s decision is flat out wrong, and offshore

drilling will harm our pristine coast and the residents and industries that rely on it. Now, it is also clear the Administration is willing to harm over 300,000 marine mammals, even endangered species, in pursuit of its fossil fuel agenda. In New Jersey, we're committed to fighting offshore drilling every step of the way, and I'm proud to file this lawsuit."

"New Jersey has a responsibility to protect our natural environment, including the hundreds of thousands of marine animals that depend on our coastline as their home," said DEP Commissioner McCabe. "I am proud to join Attorney General Grewal in this suit to fight back against the Trump Administration's efforts to exploit and harm our precious natural resources, and New Jersey's valuable tourism and fishing economy for the gain of the fossil fuel industry."


READ MORE: [AG Grewal, DEP Commissioner McCabe File Lawsuit Against Federal Government](#)

GOVERNORS LEAD BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO OPPOSE SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

Following the announcement that the Trump Administration authorized airgun use in waters off the East Coast, Governor Phil Murphy and a group of bipartisan governors from nine other states along the Atlantic coastline issued a letter yesterday urging Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to halt harmful seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

"As the governors of states on the Atlantic seaboard, we write to reiterate our strong opposition to seismic airgun surveys and oil and gas drilling off our coasts," the governors wrote. "These activities pose an unacceptable and unnecessary threat to our coastal ecosystems and coastal economies."


READ MORE: [Bipartisan Governors Come Together to Oppose Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling](#)



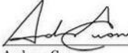
Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina




Henry McMaster
Governor of South Carolina




Dannel Malloy
Governor of Connecticut



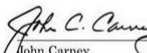
Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York



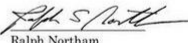
Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland




Charlie Baker
Governor of Massachusetts




John Carney
Governor of Delaware



Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia



Gina Raimondo
Governor of Rhode Island



Phillip D. Murphy
Governor of New Jersey