

18A:39-19.6
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2018 **CHAPTER:** 152

NJSA: 18A:39-19.6 (Requires board of education or school bus contractor, within one business day of notification that school bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, to verify to DOE that driver is no longer operating school bus.)

BILL NO: S2850 (Substituted for A4344)

SPONSOR(S) Lagana and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 7/23/2018

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---

SENATE: Transportation

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 10/29/2018

SENATE: 10/29/2018

DATE OF APPROVAL: 12/17/2018

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted) Yes

S2850

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A4344

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

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 152, *approved December 17, 2018*
Senate, No. 2850 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning school bus drivers and supplementing chapter
2 39 of 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. If a board of education or a contractor that provides pupil
8 transportation services under contract with a board of education is
9 notified by the Department of Education that a school bus driver
10 employed by the board or contractor has had his bus driver's license
11 suspended or revoked, the employing board of education or
12 contractor, within ¹**[24 hours]** one business day¹ of the notification,
13 shall provide a statement to the department verifying that the school
14 bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or
15 contractor.

16

17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

18

19

20

21

22 _____
23 Requires board of education or school bus contractor, within one
24 business day of notification that school bus driver's license is
25 suspended or revoked, to verify to DOE that driver is no longer
operating school bus.

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:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted September 27, 2018.

SENATE, No. 2850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado, Holzapfel, Singer and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires employing board of education or school bus contractor, within 24 hours of notification that school bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, to verify to DOE that driver is no longer operating school bus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/28/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning school bus drivers and supplementing chapter
2 39 of 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. If a board of education or a contractor that provides pupil
8 transportation services under contract with a board of education is
9 notified by the Department of Education that a school bus driver
10 employed by the board or contractor has had his bus driver's license
11 suspended or revoked, the employing board of education or
12 contractor, within 24 hours of the notification, shall provide a
13 statement to the department verifying that the school bus driver no
14 longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor.

15

16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 Under current practice, the Department of Education is notified
22 by the Motor Vehicle Commission of school bus drivers who have
23 had their driving privileges suspended or revoked. The department
24 provides this information to the appropriate boards of education or
25 school bus contractors that employ the drivers. This bill would
26 require the boards of education and school bus contractors to
27 provide the department with a statement within 24 hours of the
28 notification of the suspension or revocation, verifying that the
29 school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or
30 contractor.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 26, 2018

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2850.

As reported, under current law, the Department of Education (department) is notified by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission if a school bus driver has the driver's driving privileges suspended or revoked. The department then provides this information to the appropriate board of education or school bus contractor that employs the driver.

This bill requires the employing board of education or school bus contractor to provide the department with a statement within 24 hours of the notification of the suspension or revocation, verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2850

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator LAGANA)

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

This floor amendment provides that the employing board of education or school bus contractor has one business day, rather than 24 hours, to verify to the Department of Education that a school bus driver no longer operates a bus for the board or contractor, after notification that the driver's license has been suspended or revoked.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4344

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 27, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

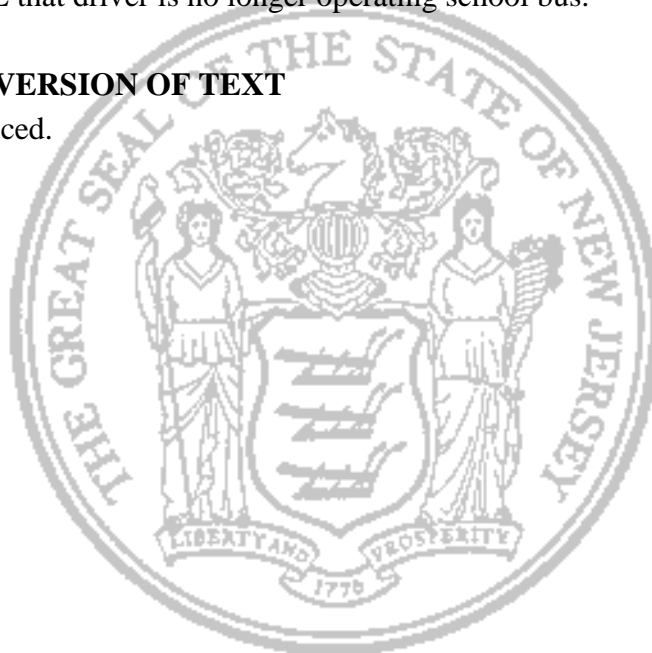
Assemblyman DeAngelo

SYNOPSIS

Requires employing board of education or school bus contractor, within 24 hours of notification that school bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, to verify to DOE that driver is no longer operating school bus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT concerning school bus drivers and supplementing chapter
2 39 of 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. If a board of education or a contractor that provides pupil
8 transportation services under contract with a board of education is
9 notified by the Department of Education that a school bus driver
10 employed by the board or contractor has had his bus driver's license
11 suspended or revoked, the employing board of education or
12 contractor, within 24 hours of the notification, shall provide a
13 statement to the department verifying that the school bus driver no
14 longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor.

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STATEMENT

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21 Under current practice, the Department of Education is notified
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24 provides this information to the appropriate boards of education or
25 school bus contractors that employ the drivers. This bill would
26 require the boards of education and school bus contractors to
27 provide the department with a statement within 24 hours of the
28 notification of the suspension or revocation, verifying that the
29 school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or
30 contractor.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4344

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4344.

As amended and reported, this bill requires an employing board of education or school bus contractor to provide the Department of Education with a statement, within one business day of notification to the board or contractor of the suspension or revocation of the driving privileges of a school bus driver, verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that the employing board of education or school bus contractor has one business day, rather than 24 hours, to verify to the Department of Education that a school bus driver no longer operates a bus for the board or contractor, after notification that the driver's license has been suspended or revoked.



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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."

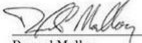
READ MORE: [Bipartisan Governors Come Together to Oppose Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling](#)




Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina




Henry McMaster
Governor of South Carolina




Dannel Malloy
Governor of Connecticut



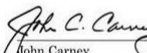
Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York



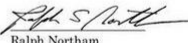
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Governor of Maryland




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