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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Christie Oks law to give schools transgender policy guidance," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, July 22, 2017

"Transgender rights are now law as Christie signs dozens of bills," The Record, July 22, 2017

"Christie signs bill to help protect transgender students," The Times, July 23, 2017

"Christie signs bill to create bathroom, other rights for transgender students," nj.com, July 22, 2017

"Christie signs law to set school transgender policies on restrooms, pronouns, dress," New Jersey 101.5, July 21, 2017

"Christie Signs Laws Protecting Transgender NJ Residents," Observer, July 21, 2017

"Christie signs bill to extend protections for transgender students," Politico, July 21, 2017

RWH/JA.

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 137, *approved July 21, 2017*
Senate, No. 3067

1 AN ACT concerning transgender students and supplementing
2 chapter 36 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. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and
8 distribute to school districts guidelines concerning transgender
9 students. The purposes of the guidelines shall be to provide
10 direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the
11 needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing
12 policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and
13 nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

14 b. The guidelines developed by the commissioner shall include,
15 but not be limited to, information and guidance regarding the
16 following:

17 (1) definitions of terms relevant to an understanding of
18 transgender issues, including gender identity, gender expression,
19 and transgender person;

20 (2) maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment that
21 is free from discrimination and harassment for transgender students,
22 including students going through a gender transition;

23 (3) confidentiality and privacy concerns, including ensuring that
24 school personnel do not disclose information that may reveal a
25 student's transgender status except as allowed by law, and advising
26 schools to work with the student to create an appropriate
27 confidentiality plan regarding the student's transgender or
28 transitioning status;

29 (4) procedures for school records, including maintaining a
30 separate official record for each student that contains the student's
31 legal name and biological gender and changing a student's official
32 record upon receipt of documentation of a legal change in name or
33 gender;

34 (5) ensuring that a transgender student is addressed at school by
35 the name and pronoun preferred by the student that corresponds to
36 the student's gender identity, regardless of whether a legal name
37 change or change in official school records has occurred;

38 (6) issuing school documentation such as student identification
39 cards in the name preferred by the student that corresponds to the
40 student's gender identity, and permitting a transgender student to
41 dress in accordance with the student's gender identity;

1 (7) providing a transgender student with the same opportunities
2 to participate in physical education as other students, and permitting
3 the student to participate in physical education in accordance with
4 the student's gender identity;

5 (8) permitting a transgender student to participate in gender-
6 segregated school activities in accordance with the student's gender
7 identity;

8 (9) use of restrooms and locker rooms, including not requiring a
9 transgender student to use a restroom or locker room that conflicts
10 with the student's gender identity, and providing reasonable
11 alternative arrangements if needed to ensure a student's safety and
12 comfort;

13 (10) ensuring that school counselors are knowledgeable
14 regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students; and

15 (11) permitting and supporting the formation of student clubs or
16 programs regarding issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual,
17 transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.

18 c. The guidelines shall include information on organizations or
19 other resources available to students and parents that provide
20 support to transgender individuals.

21 d. The commissioner shall periodically review the guidelines
22 developed pursuant to this section, and shall update or modify the
23 guidelines, as appropriate, in accordance with current State or
24 federal laws and regulations concerning the rights of transgender
25 students.

26

27 2. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
28 districts with guidance and resources regarding the following:

29 a. providing professional development opportunities to
30 teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, bus drivers, coaches,
31 and other school staff regarding issues and concerns relevant to
32 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ)
33 students; and

34 b. making developmentally appropriate information about
35 LGBTQ issues available in school facilities, which may include
36 providing pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling
37 offices, and nurse's offices.

38

39 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

43

44 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop
45 guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The
46 guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in
47 addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender
48 students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and

1 procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory
2 environment for transgender students.

3 Under the bill, the guidelines are required to include information
4 and guidance regarding the following: (1) definitions of terms
5 relevant to an understanding of transgender issues; (2) maintaining
6 a safe and supportive learning environment free from discrimination
7 and harassment; (3) confidentiality and privacy concerns regarding
8 a student's transgender or transitioning status; (4) procedures for
9 the maintenance of official school records; (5) use of the name and
10 pronoun that corresponds to a student's gender identity; (6)
11 issuance of school documentation such as student ID's in the name
12 that corresponds to a student's gender identity, and permitting
13 transgender students to dress in accordance with their gender
14 identity; (7) equal opportunities for participation in physical
15 education; (8) participation in gender-segregated school activities in
16 accordance with a student's gender identity; (9) the use of
17 restrooms and locker rooms; (10) ensuring that school counselors
18 are knowledgeable regarding issues and concerns relevant to
19 transgender students; and (11) permitting and supporting the
20 formation of student clubs or programs regarding issues related to
21 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ)
22 youth. In addition, the guidelines will include information on
23 organizations or other resources available to students and parents
24 that provide support to transgender individuals.

25 The bill directs the commissioner to periodically review the
26 guidelines and to update or modify them, as appropriate, in
27 accordance with current State or federal laws and regulations
28 concerning the rights of transgender students.

29 In addition, the bill requires the commissioner to provide school
30 districts with guidance and resources regarding: (1) providing
31 professional development opportunities to teachers, administrators,
32 guidance counselors, bus drivers, coaches, and other school staff
33 regarding issues and concerns relevant to LGBTQ students; and (2)
34 making developmentally appropriate information about LGBTQ
35 issues available in school facilities, which may include providing
36 pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling offices, and
37 nurse's offices.

38

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40

41

42 Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for
43 school districts regarding transgender students.

SENATE, No. 3067

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 6, 2017

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

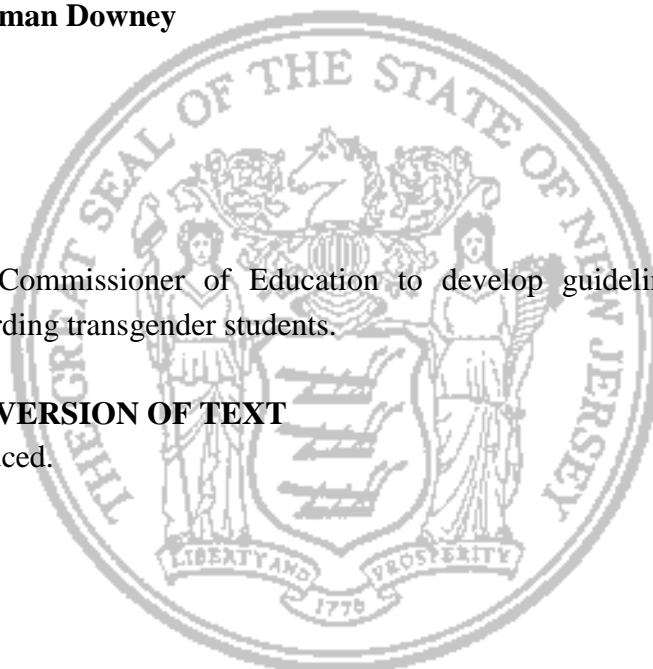
Assemblywoman Downey

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning transgender students and supplementing
2 chapter 36 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:*

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7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and
8 distribute to school districts guidelines concerning transgender
9 students. The purposes of the guidelines shall be to provide
10 direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the
11 needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing
12 policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and
13 nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

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15 but not be limited to, information and guidance regarding the
16 following:

17 (1) definitions of terms relevant to an understanding of
18 transgender issues, including gender identity, gender expression,
19 and transgender person;

20 (2) maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment that
21 is free from discrimination and harassment for transgender students,
22 including students going through a gender transition;

23 (3) confidentiality and privacy concerns, including ensuring that
24 school personnel do not disclose information that may reveal a
25 student's transgender status except as allowed by law, and advising
26 schools to work with the student to create an appropriate
27 confidentiality plan regarding the student's transgender or
28 transitioning status;

29 (4) procedures for school records, including maintaining a
30 separate official record for each student that contains the student's
31 legal name and biological gender and changing a student's official
32 record upon receipt of documentation of a legal change in name or
33 gender;

34 (5) ensuring that a transgender student is addressed at school by
35 the name and pronoun preferred by the student that corresponds to
36 the student's gender identity, regardless of whether a legal name
37 change or change in official school records has occurred;

38 (6) issuing school documentation such as student identification
39 cards in the name preferred by the student that corresponds to the
40 student's gender identity, and permitting a transgender student to
41 dress in accordance with the student's gender identity;

42 (7) providing a transgender student with the same opportunities
43 to participate in physical education as other students, and permitting
44 the student to participate in physical education in accordance with
45 the student's gender identity;

46 (8) permitting a transgender student to participate in gender-
47 segregated school activities in accordance with the student's gender
48 identity;

- 1 (9) use of restrooms and locker rooms, including not requiring a
2 transgender student to use a restroom or locker room that conflicts
3 with the student's gender identity, and providing reasonable
4 alternative arrangements if needed to ensure a student's safety and
5 comfort;
- 6 (10) ensuring that school counselors are knowledgeable
7 regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students; and
- 8 (11) permitting and supporting the formation of student clubs or
9 programs regarding issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual,
10 transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.
- 11 c. The guidelines shall include information on organizations or
12 other resources available to students and parents that provide
13 support to transgender individuals.
- 14 d. The commissioner shall periodically review the guidelines
15 developed pursuant to this section, and shall update or modify the
16 guidelines, as appropriate, in accordance with current State or
17 federal laws and regulations concerning the rights of transgender
18 students.
- 19
- 20 2. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
21 districts with guidance and resources regarding the following:
- 22 a. providing professional development opportunities to
23 teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, bus drivers, coaches,
24 and other school staff regarding issues and concerns relevant to
25 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ)
26 students; and
- 27 b. making developmentally appropriate information about
28 LGBTQ issues available in school facilities, which may include
29 providing pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling
30 offices, and nurse's offices.
- 31
- 32 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
- 33
- 34

35 STATEMENT

36

37 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop
38 guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The
39 guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in
40 addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender
41 students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and
42 procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory
43 environment for transgender students.

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45 and guidance regarding the following: (1) definitions of terms
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47 a safe and supportive learning environment free from discrimination
48 and harassment; (3) confidentiality and privacy concerns regarding

1 a student's transgender or transitioning status; (4) procedures for
2 the maintenance of official school records; (5) use of the name and
3 pronoun that corresponds to a student's gender identity; (6)
4 issuance of school documentation such as student ID's in the name
5 that corresponds to a student's gender identity, and permitting
6 transgender students to dress in accordance with their gender
7 identity; (7) equal opportunities for participation in physical
8 education; (8) participation in gender-segregated school activities in
9 accordance with a student's gender identity; (9) the use of
10 restrooms and locker rooms; (10) ensuring that school counselors
11 are knowledgeable regarding issues and concerns relevant to
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14 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ)
15 youth. In addition, the guidelines will include information on
16 organizations or other resources available to students and parents
17 that provide support to transgender individuals.

18 The bill directs the commissioner to periodically review the
19 guidelines and to update or modify them, as appropriate, in
20 accordance with current State or federal laws and regulations
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22 In addition, the bill requires the commissioner to provide school
23 districts with guidance and resources regarding: (1) providing
24 professional development opportunities to teachers, administrators,
25 guidance counselors, bus drivers, coaches, and other school staff
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28 issues available in school facilities, which may include providing
29 pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling offices, and
30 nurse's offices.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3067

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2017

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3067.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

Under the bill, the guidelines are required to include information and guidance regarding the following: (1) definitions of terms relevant to an understanding of transgender issues; (2) maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment free from discrimination and harassment; (3) confidentiality and privacy concerns regarding a student's transgender or transitioning status; (4) procedures for the maintenance of official school records; (5) use of the name and pronoun that corresponds to a student's gender identity; (6) issuance of school documentation such as student ID's in the name that corresponds to a student's gender identity, and permitting transgender students to dress in accordance with their gender identity; (7) equal opportunities for participation in physical education; (8) participation in gender-segregated school activities in accordance with a student's gender identity; (9) the use of restrooms and locker rooms; (10) ensuring that school counselors are knowledgeable regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students; and (11) permitting and supporting the formation of student clubs or programs regarding issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. In addition, the guidelines will include information on organizations or other resources available to students and parents that provide support to transgender individuals.

The bill directs the commissioner to periodically review the guidelines and to update or modify them, as appropriate, in accordance with current State or federal laws and regulations concerning the rights of transgender students.

In addition, the bill requires the commissioner to provide school districts with guidance and resources regarding: (1) providing professional development opportunities to teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, bus drivers, coaches, and other school staff

regarding issues and concerns relevant to LGBTQ students; and (2) making developmentally appropriate information about LGBTQ issues available in school facilities, which may include providing pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling offices, and nurse's offices.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4652, as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill was not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3067

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2017

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 3067.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

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ASSEMBLY, No. 4652

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2017

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

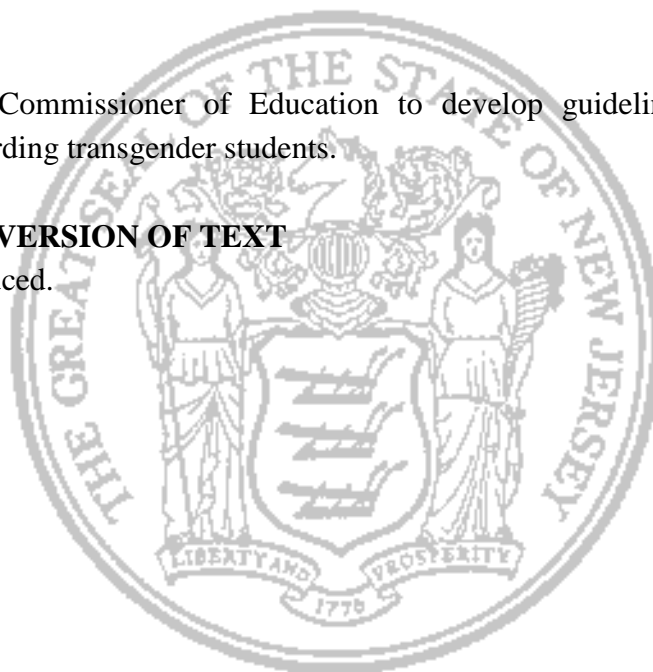
Assemblywoman Downey

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2017)

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42 (7) providing a transgender student with the same opportunities
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6 (10) ensuring that school counselors are knowledgeable
7 regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students; and

8 (11) permitting and supporting the formation of student clubs or
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11 c. The guidelines shall include information on organizations or
12 other resources available to students and parents that provide
13 support to transgender individuals.

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20 2. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
21 districts with guidance and resources regarding the following:

22 a. providing professional development opportunities to
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24 and other school staff regarding issues and concerns relevant to
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26 students; and

27 b. making developmentally appropriate information about
28 LGBTQ issues available in school facilities, which may include
29 providing pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling
30 offices, and nurse's offices.

31

32 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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35

STATEMENT

36

37 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop
38 guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The
39 guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in
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27 making developmentally appropriate information about LGBTQ
28 issues available in school facilities, which may include providing
29 pamphlets or books in school libraries, counseling offices, and
30 nurse's offices.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4652

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2017

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4652.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

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As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3067, as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill was not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Christie Takes Action on Pending Legislation

Friday, July 21, 2017

Tags: [Bill Action](#)



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Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today took action on dozens of bills, including S-359/A-2320 (Codey, Vitale/Vainieri Huttle, Conaway, Jimenez, Lampitt, Jasey, Sumter), which raises the minimum age from 19 to 21 of a person to whom a vendor may sell, offer for sale, distribute, give or furnish tobacco products in New Jersey. This new law also amends various related statues concerning penalties, fines, signage requirements, non-face-to-face transactions, and enforcement provisions to reflect the increased minimum age.

“By raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21, we are giving young people more time to develop a maturity and better understanding of how dangerous smoking can be and that it is better to not start smoking in the first place,” Governor Christie said. “My mother died from the effects of smoking, and no one should lose their life due to any addictive substance. Additionally, the less people who develop costly tobacco habits that can cause health problems, such as lung cancer, heart disease and developmental issues, the less strain there will be on our healthcare system.”

Governor Christie also took action on pending legislation related to:

Further Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Governor Christie signed four bills that continue New Jersey's leadership role in fighting the national opioid epidemic. The legislation that requires the Department of Human Services develop, maintain, and post on their website daily information about the number of open beds available in facilities in the state for people in need of mental health or substance use disorder treatment; help inform parents of student athletes and cheerleaders about the use and misuse of prescription opioids; allows hospice programs to accept the unused prescription medicines of their hospice patients for safe disposal and implements the use of current-day, sensitive terminology when referring to persons with substance use disorders or certain disabilities.

- **A-1662/S-2466 (Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Coughlin, McKnight, Mukherji/Vitale, Allen)** - Requires development and maintenance of data dashboard report to advise of open bed availability in residential facilities providing behavioral health services
- **A-3944/S-2402 (Mazzeo, Lagana, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Caride, Wimberly/Diegnan, Vitale)** - Requires DOE to develop educational fact sheet for distribution to parents of student-athletes and cheerleaders concerning use and misuse of prescription opioids
- **S-2970/A-4522 (Vitale, Diegnan/Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Jimenez)** - Allows hospice care programs to accept unused prescription medications for disposal under certain circumstances
- **S-2721/ACS for A-926 (Vitale, Whelan/Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Tucker, Eustace, McKnight, Mosquera)** - Implements person-first language and changes pejorative terminology referring to persons with certain disabilities or substance use disorders

Protecting and Preserving the Environment

The Governor also signed several bills to protect people and improve the quality of life by strengthening New Jersey's environment.

“These new laws will create more open space preservation opportunities, green energy solutions and safeguards to ensure quality drinking water for all New Jerseyans,” Governor Christie said. “They provide greater flexibility for counties and municipalities to use the roughly \$270 million open space tax dollars they collect each year for the intended mission of protecting New Jersey's environment, improving communities with more recreation and

conservation, and preventing overcrowding of our towns and schools. They also ensure reliable, sustainable and safe environmental infrastructure across the state, by investing nearly \$100 million in critical projects this year."

- **A-1645/S-195 (Schaer, Webber, Dancer, Pintor Marin/Kyrillos, Smith)** - Expands definition of "acquisition," for purposes of county and municipal open space trust funds, to include demolition, removal of debris, and restoration of lands being acquired
- **S-3352/A-5045 (Ruiz, Bateman/Oliver, Chaparro, Singleton, Lagana, Bramnick, Vainieri Huttie, Zwicker)** - Appropriates \$71,700,224 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition and park development projects
- **S-3353/A-5046 (Greenstein, Thompson/Eustace, Land, Mukherji, Schaer, Bramnick, Vainieri Huttie, Wimberly)** - Appropriates \$12.3 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects
- **S-3354/A-5044 (Gordon, Allen/McKeon, Mazzeo, Muoio, Moriarty, Bramnick, Zwicker, Vainieri Huttie)** - Appropriates \$8,992,898 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes
- **S-3240/A-4996 (Greenstein, Codey/Mukherji, Mazzeo, Schaer, Holley, Land)** - Authorizes NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust to expend certain sums to make loans for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2018
- **CC for S-3241/A-4998 (Smith, Codey/Eustace, Muoio, Moriarty, Conaway, Andrzejczak)** - Appropriates funds to DEP for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2018
- **S-3242/A-4997 (Gordon, Oroho/McKeon, Prieto)** - Clarifies procedures for approval of environmental and transportation infrastructure projects
- **S-3181/A-4756 (Smith, Diegnan/DeAngelo, Eustace, Gusciora)** - Permits solar electric power generation facility projects not having commenced commercial operation to retain designation through May 31, 2018 as connected to distribution system
- **S-2834/A-4569 (Sweeney, Greenstein, Bateman/Eustace, Karabinchak, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Benson, Muoio)** - The "Water Quality Accountability Act"; imposes certain testing, reporting, management, and infrastructure investment requirements on water purveyors

Governor Christie also took action on the following bills:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-5/A-4925 (Vitale, Sweeney/Conaway, O'Scanlon, Houghtaling, Quijano, Giblin, DeAngelo, Munoz, Mukherji, A.M. Bucco) - Establishes data reporting requirements for emergency medical services providers and dispatch centers

SS SCS SCS for S-291, 652, 1954/ACS for A-1464 (Vitale, Whelan, Allen, Turner/Lampitt, Coughlin, Conaway, Vainieri Huttie, Lagana, Mukherji, Moriarty) - Authorizes health care providers to engage in telemedicine and telehealth

S-742/A-1205 (Beach/Mosquera, Holley, Wimberly, Jones) - Requires board of education to enter into agreement with law enforcement authorities regarding access to live video streams of public school buildings

S-1295/A-3701 (Vitale/Eustace, Munoz) - Amends and repeals sections of "Respiratory Care Practitioner Licensing Act"

S-1315/A-1839 (Vitale/Giblin, Wimberly, McKeon, Mukherji, Sumter) - Revises statutes regarding practice of physical therapy

S-1840/A-2085 (Ruiz, Gill/Mukherji, Oliver, McKnight) - Prohibits charging fee to stop publishing personal identifying information obtained through the criminal justice system

S-1913/A-2794 (Addiego, Greenstein/Lagana, Moriarty, Mukherji, Downey) - "Personal Information and Privacy Protection Act"; restricts collection and use of personal information by retail establishments for certain purposes

S-2058/A-671 (T. Kean, Pou/Munoz, Giblin, Mukherji, Moriarty) - Adds two nurse educators to the New Jersey Board of Nursing

S-2331/A-3962 (Codey, Vitale/Jasey, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Munoz, Mukherji, Mosquera, Lampitt) - Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas or psychiatric hospitals in New Jersey

CC S-2403/A-3717 (Rice, Turner/Sumter, Vainieri Huttie, Lampitt, Downey) - Establishes Women's Vocational Training Pilot Program to promote economic self-sufficiency of low-income women through increased participation in high-wage, high-demand occupations; authorizes allocation of certain funds therefor

S-2452/A-4007 (Diegnan, Stack/Houghtaling, Downey, Mosquera, Mazzeo) - Requires Director of Division of Taxation to promulgate Property Taxpayer Bill of Rights

S-2577/A-4238 (Cunningham, Ruiz, Gordon/Sumter, Jasey, Muoio, Lagana, Downey, Benson) - Requires Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to provide annual New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students Loan Program report to Governor and Legislature and develop student loan comparison information document to increase program transparency

S-2618/A-4691 (Cunningham, Pou/Caride, McKeon, Jasey, Giblin) - Requires institutions of higher education to enter into collective Statewide reverse transfer agreement

S-2819/A-4363 (Sweeney, Ruiz, Lesniak/Taliaferro, Andrzejczak, Lampitt, Mosquera, Holley, Quijano) - Creates "Nourishing Young Minds Initiative Fund" in Dept. of Agriculture to help pay for child food and nutrition programs

S-3027/A-4631 (Smith, Greenstein/Lampitt, Quijano, Eustace, Kennedy, Benson, Muoio, Zwicker, Mukherji) - Establishes State food waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030

S-3067/A-4652 (Ruiz, Vitale/Vainieri Huttie, Caride, Eustace, Jasey, Wimberly, Gusciora) - Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students

S-3176/A-4898 (Madden/Mukherji, Singleton) - Changes year used to calculate TDI and FLI employee taxes from most recent calendar year to most recent fiscal year

S-3191/A-3370 (Sweeney, Bateman/Burzichelli, Jones) - Extends voting rights of representatives of sending districts on receiving district board of education

S-3219/A-4859 (Sweeney, T. Kean, Greenstein, Holzapfel/Vainieri Huttie, Prieto, Downey) - Establishes additional penalties related to child pornography and expands crime to include portrayal of child in sexual manner; establishes crime of leader of child pornography network

S-3331/A-5039 (Cruz-Perez/Jones) - Authorizes State Treasurer to sell surplus real property in City of Camden, County of Camden to Camden County Improvement Authority

SJR-105/AJR-157 (Diegnan, Cruz-Perez, Sweeney/Pinkin, Karabinchak, Coughlin) - Designates August 29, 2017 as Governor James Florio Day in New Jersey

SJR-113/AJR-165 (Gordon/Vainieri Huttie, Chiaravalloti) - Clarifies intent of law subjecting PANYNJ to open public records and freedom of information laws in New Jersey and New York

A-222/S-2171 (DeAngelo, Giblin, Singleton, Holley, Benson/Bateman, Greenstein, Stack) - "New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act"; authorizes issuance of \$125,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance capital projects at public libraries; appropriates \$5,000

A-373/S-607 (Auth, Vainieri Huttie, McGuckin, Schepisi, Peterson, Jimenez/Addiego, A.R. Bucco) - Requires life imprisonment without parole for persons convicted of the murder of a minor under the age of 18 in the course of the commission of a sex crime

A-555/S-1847 (Pinkin, Eustace/Diegnan) - Revises statutes concerning incorporation and governance of the Protestant Episcopal Church to remove gender-specific references

A-621/S-2328 (Lagana, Greenwald, Moriarty, Mosquera, Mukherji/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Permits bowling alleys, including alleys licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, to conduct amusement games

A-1458/S-2449 (Lampitt, Mosquera, Downey, Singleton, Vainieri Huttie/Vitale, Ruiz) - Requires health care professionals engaged in prenatal care to provide parents of newborns with information on health insurance coverage for newborn children

A-1761/S-332 (Eustace, Mukherji, Gusciora/Scutari, Bateman) - Creates fencing crime involving stolen domestic companion animals

A-2060/S-2333 (Gusciora, Sumter, Oliver, Jasey, McKnight/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Establishes process for consideration of offers from short sale buyers during residential mortgage foreclosures

A-2221/S-2453 (Benson, Russo, DeAngelo, A.M. Bucco/Diegnan, Greenstein) - Allows gross income taxpayers to use returns to make voluntary contributions to the Boy Scouts of America Councils in New Jersey

A-2441/S-2910 (Eustace, Gusciora, Kennedy, Mazzeo, Mukherji/Gordon, Turner) - Authorizes the Unclaimed Property Administrator to verify certain governmental debts before delivering abandoned property

A-2926/S-3197 (Greenwald, Vainieri Huttie, Schaer, Mukherji, Holley, Mosquera, Muoio, Sumter, Mazzeo/Cruz-Perez, Cunningham) - Repeals law suspending certain licenses, registrations and certifications for failure to repay student loans

A-2993/S-1305 (Conaway, Pinkin, Sumter, Wimberly, McKnight, Mukherji/Vitale, Madden) - Requires Medicaid coverage for diabetes self-management education, training, services, and equipment for patients diagnosed with diabetes, gestational diabetes, and pre-diabetes

A-3347/S-2242 (Wolfe, Holley, Jasey, McKnight, Wimberly/Diegnan) - Establishes New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy in Department of Education and requires school districts to designate school safety specialist

A-3438/S-1564 (DeAngelo, Danielsens, Holley, Houghtaling, Downey, Wimberly, Quijano/Turner, Beach) - Requires initial determination of unemployment benefits to be made within three weeks of filing of claim

A-3463/S-2038 (Coughlin/Vitale, Codey) - Updates references to DOC and DHS and refers to persons receiving services from DHS

A-3686/S-2423 (McKeon, Jasey, Munoz, Vainieri Huttie, A.M. Bucco/Codey, Oroho) - Establishes new crime of strict liability vehicular homicide; renames existing vehicular homicide as reckless vehicular homicide; designated as Ralph and David's Law

A-4011/S-2887 (Jones, Barclay, Moriarty, Mosquera, Greenwald, Lampitt, Mazzeo, Chiaravalloti/Cruz-Perez, Beach) - Designates USS New Jersey as New Jersey State Ship

A-4081/S-2662 (Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Wimberly, Greenwald/Allen, Sweeney) - "Charlie's Law"; Establishes civil penalties for persons who interfere with or deny persons with disabilities accompanied by service or guide dogs access to places of public accommodation

A-4088/S-2567 (Schaer, Jasey, Benson, Wimberly/Cruz-Perez, Singer) - Establishes "High School to College Readiness Commission" to examine issues and develop recommendations to enhance student preparation for postsecondary education

A-4175/S-2808 (Caride, McKnight, Holley, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Turner) -Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidance on identifying English language learners for gifted and talented programs

A-4246/S-3194 (Dancer/Lesniak, Beck) - Decreases annual thoroughbred race dates to 50 minimum upon written consent from New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

A-4317/S-3206 (Prieto, Giblin/Diegnan) - Concerns violations of certain occupational licensing laws

A-4568/S-3017 (Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Pinkin, Jasey, Johnson/Vitale, Ruiz) - Prohibits health insurers, SHBP, SEHBP, certain health care providers, and Medicaid from discriminating in providing coverage and services based on gender identity

A-4875/S-1996 (Muoio, Gusciora/Beach, Van Drew) - Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online

A-4969/S-3281 (Oliver, Giblin, Jasey, McKnight, Schaer, Wimberly/Gill, Cunningham) - Establishes Montclair State University as public research university

ACS for A-4994/S-3314 (McKeon, Burzichelli, Singleton, Caride/Sarlo, Oroho) - Requires certain State and local government agency employees with access to federal tax information to undergo criminal history background checks

AJR-37/SJR-67 (Mosquera, Chaparro/Weinberg) - Designates June 21 of each year as "ASK Day" to promote children's health and gun safety

ACS for AJR-54/SJR-104 (Benson, Mosquera, Chiaravalloti, Holley, McKnight, Wimberly/Sweeney, Beach) - Designates April 2nd of each year as "World Autism Awareness Day"

AJR-72/SJR-31 (Gove, Rumpf, A.M. Bucco, Holley/A.R. Bucco) - Designates September 17 through September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week"

AJR-115/SJR-81 (Vainieri Huttle, Lampitt, Giblin, Benson/Diegnan, A.R. Bucco) - Designates third Friday in September of every year as Concussion Awareness Day

AJR-126/SJR-85 (Dancer, DeAngelo, Munoz, A.M. Bucco, Mukherji, Houghtaling, Downey/Allen, Madden) - Commemorates establishment and service of the New Jersey State Police and celebrates 95th anniversary of first graduating class

AJR-137/SJR-102 (Mazzeo/Whelan) - Urges United States President Trump, members of his administration, and Congress to oppose measures and actions to prohibit states from authorizing and conducting Internet gaming

BILLS VETOED:

SCS for S-1297, 1990/A-3751 (Vitale, Sweeney/Jasey, Coughlin) - **CONDITIONAL** - Permits candidates for school board to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on ballot; permits short nonpolitical designation of principles on petitions and ballots

A-31/S-3315 (Prieto, Muoio, Oliver, Schaer, Holley, Mukherji, Quijano, Wimberly, Pintor Marin/Vitale, Cruz-Perez) - **ABSOLUTE** - Increases amount of benefits under Work First New Jersey program by 30 percent over three years and according to Social Security cost of living increases thereafter

A-33/S-3316 (Muoio, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, Oliver, Gusciora, Pintor Marin/Vitale, Cruz-Perez) - **ABSOLUTE** - Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program

A-320/S-1018 (Singleton, Vainieri Huttle, Munoz, Moriarty, Lampitt, Sumter, Mukherji/Weinberg, Cruz-Perez) - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes minimum Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal care services

A-1139/S-2616 (Holley, McKnight, Munoz, Kennedy, Mukherji, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Vitale) - **CONDITIONAL** - Prohibits sale of unsafe supplemental mattresses designed for children's products

A-2297/S-659 (Vainieri Huttle, Sumter, Mukherji, Caride, Downey, Zwicker, Wimberly/Turner, Allen) - **CONDITIONAL** - Requires health insurance coverage for contraceptives to include prescriptions for 12 months

A-3338/S-862 (Eustace, Lagana, Vainieri Huttle, Muoio, Mukherji, Benson, Jimenez, Giblin, Moriarty, Lampitt/Stack, Weinberg) - **CONDITIONAL** - Dedicates one percent of cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues to anti-smoking initiatives

ACS for A-3480, 4119/S-2536 (Downey, Lampitt, Schaer, Houghtaling, Benson, Singleton, Muoio, DeAngelo/Gill, Weinberg) - **ABSOLUTE** - Concerns employer inquiries about worker's wage and salary experience

A-4253/S-2634 (Quijano, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Jones, McKeon/Weinberg, Diegnan) - CONDITIONAL - Establishes "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program"; appropriates \$3,000,000 over next three fiscal years

A-4453/S-2881 (Downey, Houghtaling/Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL - Requires pupils who reside on certain federal property to enroll in resident school district in accordance with schedule determined by executive county superintendent of schools

A-4496/S-2977 (Wimberly, Sumter, Lampitt/Lesniak) – CONDITIONAL - "Healthy Small Food Retailer Act"; provides funding to small food retailers to sell fresh and nutritious food; appropriates \$1 million

A-4587/SCS for S-2574 (Quijano, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, Giblin/Diegnan, Sarlo) – ABSOLUTE - Imposes State sales and use tax and hotel and motel occupancy fee on transient accommodations; authorizes various municipal taxes and fees on transient accommodations

A-4870/S-3226 (Prieto, Oliver, Quijano, Pintor Marin, Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace/Ruiz, Sweeney, Greenstein) – ABSOLUTE - "Safe Transportation Jobs and Fair Employment Rules Act"

ACS for A-4927/SCS for S-3085 (Prieto, Oliver, Gusciora, Jasey/Sweeney, Diegnan, Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL - Revises law concerning family leave, temporary disability and family temporary disability leave, and domestic or sexual violence safety leave

###

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Christie OKs law to give schools transgender policy guidance

Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - July 22, 2017

Section: News

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has signed legislation requiring the state to give guidance to public schools about policies for transgender students.

Civil rights group Garden State Equality applauded the Republican governor for signing the measure saying that Christie took a stand for LGBT youth.

The law was passed by the Democrat-led Legislature after school districts around the state began passing their own rules to allow transgender students to use whichever bathrooms they choose.

The rules would ban schools from forcing transgender students from using bathrooms that conflict with their gender identities.

Among the requirements of the law is that the state give guidance on students using the name, pronoun and dress that corresponds with their gender identities.

Schools at a minimum would have to find "reasonable alternative arrangements."

Index terms: *FastStory; US--Christie-Transgender Students; General news*

Locations: *New Jersey, United States, North America*

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TRANSGENDER RIGHTS ARE NOW LAW AS CHRISTIE SIGNS DOZENS OF BILLS

Record, The (Hackensack, NJ) - July 22, 2017

- Author/Byline: Catherine Carrera, Staff Writer, @CattCarrera
- Edition: AE = BERGEN, PASSAIC-MORRIS, and HERALD NEWS
- Section: News
- Page: A6

After talking baseball and O.J. Simpson's parole on sports radio Friday, Gov. Chris Christie made time to sign dozens of new laws, including one that protects transgender students' privacy rights, and permits them to use bathrooms and dress according to their gender identity.

Christie also signed legislation designed to combat the state's heroin crisis and another named after a slain Hillsdale girl.

Fourteen bills were vetoed, including one that would have benefited anti-smoking initiatives by dedicating 1 percent of the tax revenues from the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to those programs. He also agreed to raise the minimum age to buy tobacco products from 19 to 21.

The transgender rights law requires the commissioner of education to develop guidelines for school districts to address an array of transgender students' needs. Christie, a Republican who had sought his party's nomination for president after making some appeals to conservatives, signed the law cleared by the state's Democratic-controlled Legislature without comment.

"These guidelines are needed to ensure that transgender students can safely be themselves without fear of being persecuted," said Assemblywomen Valerie Vainieri Huttie, D-Englewood, one of the bill's sponsors, in a statement.

Some school districts have already implemented similar policies, allowing transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identities.

Schools are also required to use the name or pronoun that corresponds to a student's gender identity, and a student's school ID should be in the name corresponding to the student's gender identity. Transgender students are also given equal opportunities to participate in physical education and in gender-segregated school activities.

Fighting heroin epidemic

In the final year of his second term, Christie's agenda has aimed to focus on fighting the state's heroin epidemic by expanding treatment and resources.

Statistics released this week by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office show that this year could be Bergen County's most deadly year on record, with 244 overdoses, including 57 fatalities.

The new legislation requires the state's Department of Human Services to start a daily report, which would be posted on their website, that includes information on open beds available in facilities across the state for those in need of mental health or substance-use disorder treatment.

Further, the Department of Education is tasked with developing an educational fact sheet, targeted specifically for parents of student athletes and cheerleaders, about the use and misuse of prescription opioids.

Hospice programs, under the new laws, are permitted to accept unused prescription medication from their patients for safe disposal. Those programs are also required to use sensitive terminology when referring to people with substance use disorders or certain disabilities.

Joan's Law

The latest amendment to Joan's Law, a bill named after Hillsdale's 7-year-old Joan D'Alessandro, who was raped and killed by her neighbor 44 years ago, will require life in prison without parole for anyone convicted of murdering and sexually assaulting a person under the age of 18.

The previous bill required the same punishment for those convicted of that crime to minors under 14.

"This day is a tremendous victory," said Rosemarie D'Alessandro, Joan's mother and leading advocate of the law, which was first enacted 20 years ago.

D'Alessandro was hoping for a public signing of the bill, similar to the one former Gov. Christine Whitman did when signing the bill in

1997. She had been advocating for this latest amendment to the bill for seven years.

"They will never have to go through parole hearings and appeals like our family had to for through for years," D'Alessandro said. She was motivated to get Joan's Law established when her daughter's murderer, Joseph McGowan, became eligible for parole 14 years after receiving a life sentence. He has been denied parole several times.

Other bills signed

Christie signed five bills aimed to benefit the state's military veterans, including one that establishes a Gold Star Family Counseling Program in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Another bill allows all disabled veterans to receive parking privileges reserved for people with disabilities.

Among the bills signed that are aimed to preserve and protect the environment was legislation appropriating \$71.7 million from the corporate business tax revenue and Green Acres funds to the Department of Environment Protection for local government open space acquisitions and park development projects.

Christie began his day once again filling in on the WFAN-660 morning show, "Boomer & Carton."

"Sounds like a great day for me," Christie said as he kicked off the show. Christie began auditioning this month for a permanent hosting gig at the CBS sports radio station.

But, Friday's 20-minute segment was not part of the governor's series of auditions, said co-host Boomer Esiason.

The radio appearance came ahead of Christie's trip to Colorado next week for a meeting with the Republican Governors Association.

Email: carrera@northjersey.com

• Record: 17072256801287

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Christie signs bill to help protect transgender students

Times, The (Trenton, NJ) - July 23, 2017

- Author/Byline: <p>Brent Johnson, For Times of Trenton
- Edition: The Trenton Times
- Section: Politics
- Page: A3

Statehouse

Transgender students at New Jersey's public schools were given new layers of protection under a bill Gov. Chris Christie signed into law Friday.

The legislation (S3067/A4652) — which takes effect immediately — requires the state education commissioner to draft specific guidelines to help schools address “the needs” of transgender students and establish policies that “ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment” for those students.

Schools will be told they cannot force transgender students to use bathrooms or locker rooms that conflict with their gender identity.

Instead, schools would be mandated to provide “reasonable alternative arrangements if needed to ensure a student’s safety and comfort.”

Schools will also be required to make sure transgender students are addressed by the name and pronoun they prefer, regardless of whether a legal name change has occurred.

In addition, the law tells schools they must allow students to dress according to their gender identity, create confidentiality plans to make sure employees do not disclose a student’s transgender or transition status, issue school documents and identification cards to make the student’s gender identity clear, and let students take part in gym class with the gender that matches their identity.

The move appeared to be an about-face for Christie. In March, the Republican governor said it should be up to individual school districts to draft policies regarding transgender students and refused to issue statewide “edicts” on the issue.

Christie did not explain why he signed the Democratic-sponsored bill.

Both houses of the Democratic-controlled state Legislature passed the measure last month — the Senate by a vote of 25-10 and the Assembly by a vote of 59-15-3.

The bill was introduced after President Donald Trump this year rescinded federal guidance from President Barack Obama’s administration that public schools must let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms that are consistent with their gender identity.

New Jersey Family Policy Council, a conservative group that champions family values, spoke out against the measure.

That law takes effect Nov. 1.

NJ Advance Media staff writers Adam Clark and Sophie Nieto-Munoz contributed to this report.

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NEW JERSEY POLITICS

Christie signs bill to create bathroom, other rights for transgender students

Updated Jul 22, 2017;
Posted Jul 22, 2017



A new sticker is placed on the door at the ceremonial opening of a gender neutral bathroom at Nathan Hale High School in Seattle. (Elaine Thompson | The Associated Press)



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By **Brent Johnson**, bjohnson@njadvancemedia.com,

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

TRENTON -- Transgender students at New Jersey's public schools were given new layers of protection under a bill that Gov. Chris Christie signed into law Friday.

The legislation (S3067/A4652) -- which takes effect immediately -- requires the state education commissioner to draft specific guidelines to help schools address "the needs" of transgender students and establish policies that "ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment" for those students.

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Both houses of the Democratic-controlled state Legislature passed the measure last month -- the Senate by a vote of 25-10 and the Assembly by a vote of 59-15-3.

"These guidelines are needed to ensure that transgender students can safely be themselves without fear of being persecuted, and can help promote a culture of understanding and acceptance that will hopefully influence how students treat each other in and outside of school," said Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-Bergen), one of the sponsors.

Another sponsor, Assemblywoman Marlene Caride (D-Bergen), added: "If we cultivate intolerance, children will pick up on that and think it is OK to bully others who are deemed different."



State Sen. Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex), another sponsor, said "all of our children deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and that means having the regulatory framework in place to be sure that our schools are safe places and have supportive environments for all students."

The bill was introduced after President Donald Trump this year rescinded federal guidance from President Barack Obama's administration that public schools must let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms that are consistent with their gender identity.

Though state law already barred New Jersey school districts from discriminating against transgender students, some school districts still tried to stop students from using bathrooms and locker rooms that matched their gender identity.

The state Department of Education last year said school districts should pass policies explaining how they handle issues related to gender identity, but the department stopped short of suggesting what those policies should say.



This law would clarify that.

New Jersey Family Policy Council, a conservative group that champions family values, spoke out heavily against the measure.

Len Deo, the organization's president, warned about the possibility of "opposite biological sex access" to student bathrooms and locker rooms and said teachers and students should not have to use pronouns chosen by transgender students.

Deo added that decisions about transgender policy should "be a local issue between parents, students, and the school board."

Christie signed the bill on the same day he signed another measure ([S3017/A4568](#)) into law that prohibits state-regulated health insurers, healthcare plans for public workers and teachers, and Medicaid from discriminating in providing coverage or services based on gender identity.

That law takes effect Nov. 1.

NJ Advance Media staff writers [Adam Clark](#) and [Sophie Nieto-Munoz](#) contributed to this report.



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CHRISTIE SIGNS LAW TO SET SCHOOL TRANSGENDER POLICIES ON RESTROOMS, PRONOUNS, DRESS

SERGIO BICHAO | July 21, 2017



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TRENTON – New Jersey becomes the 11th state to offer public schools guidance on crafting policies for transgender students.

Gov. Chris Christie on Friday signed legislation that requires the commissioner of education to provide districts with guidelines for policies dealing with usage of restrooms that correspond to students' expressed gender identity, identifying students by their preferred pronouns and letting students dress according to their gender identity, among other issues.

"This is a huge victory for equality in New Jersey, and we want to send a big thank you to Gov. Christie for standing on the right side of history on this one," Garden State Equality, a civil rights organization that advocated for the legislation, said Friday in a statement.

"As he did with the **conversion therapy ban**, Gov. Christie took a stand for LGBT youth in New Jersey by signing this important legislation, and he deserves our thanks."

Garden State Equality Executive Director Christian Fuscarino on Friday shared a meme featuring Christie's infamous beach chair photo, with the comment that Christie is "welcome to join us on the gay beach."

The law comes after numerous school districts across the state crafted their own policies. The bill was introduced in Trenton a month after President Donald Trump's administration lifted Obama-era federal guidelines designed to protect transgender students. Republicans said policies should be designed at a state level.

North Carolina has been the only state to ban transgender people from using a bathroom that did not correspond to their assigned gender at birth, but lawmakers reversed course earlier this year after national backlash. The state's new law, however, prohibits local governments from setting their own nondiscrimination policies.

On Friday, a federal lawsuit challenged North Carolina's law, calling it ambiguous and saying that it left transgender people without knowing which public restrooms they are legally allowed to use.

In New Jersey, the new law does not spell out what the policies will be, but requires the education commissioner to provide districts with guidance on the following:

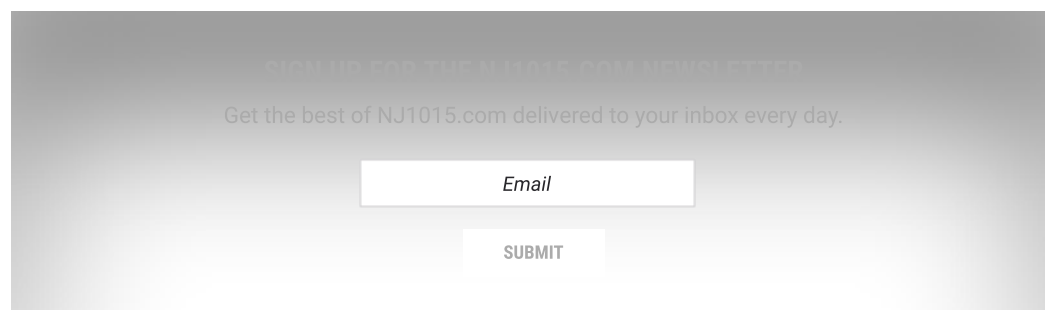
- Setting definitions of terms relevant to an understanding of transgender issues;
- Preventing discrimination and harassment;
- Protecting confidentiality and privacy concerns;
- Maintaining official school records;
- Use of the name and pronoun that corresponds to a student's gender identity;
- Issuing school IDs in the name that corresponds to a student's gender identity
- Permitting transgender students to dress in accordance with their gender identity;
- Equal opportunities in physical education;
- Participation in gender-segregated school activities in accordance with a student's gender identity;
- Use of restrooms and locker rooms;
- Ensuring that school counselors are knowledgeable regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students;
- Permitting and supporting the formation of student clubs regarding LGBTQ youth issues.

The law also requires the commissioner to provide districts with guidance and resources on providing training for administrators and staff and providing age-appropriate pamphlets or books regarding LGBTQ issues in libraries and nurse's offices.

The law was passed by the Assembly 59 to 15 and the state Senate 25 to 10.

Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Christie Signs Laws Protecting Transgender NJ Residents

By [Alyana Alfaro](#) and [Salvador Rizzo](#) • 07/21/17 3:14pm

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A demonstrator supporting transgender rights. Photo by Bastiaan Slabbers/NurPhoto via Getty Images

Gov. Chris Christie on Friday signed two bills instituting broad new protections for transgender New Jersey residents: one directing schools to let students use bathrooms and locker rooms based on their gender identity or provide “reasonable alternative arrangements,” and another prohibiting health insurers from discriminating against transgender residents.

The first bill (A4652) prevents school districts from forcing transgender students to use facilities that correspond to their birth sex rather than gender identity.

The bipartisan-backed law also requires the state education commissioner to establish guidelines for schools handling name and gender-identity changes, ways to ensure pronouns properly correspond to gender expression, and procedures to allow students to participate in activities that correspond to their gender identities.

Other provisions of the new law would permit the creation of LGBTQ student clubs, allow students to dress in accordance with their gender identity, issue school IDs corresponding to gender identity as opposed to birth sex, and ensure that school counselors are knowledgeable about issues relevant to the transgender community.

The Legislature passed the bill — an effort led by Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-Bergen) — in a 25-10 vote in the Senate and a 59-15 vote with three abstentions in the Assembly in June. In both houses, the bill had bipartisan support, but most Republicans voted no, and a few Democrats abstained or voted no.

Huttle cited a study by the National Center for Transgender Equality, which found that 41 percent of trans people attempted suicide in their lifetimes, compared with 1.6 percent for the general population. The survey also found that 59 percent of respondents said they avoided using a public restroom over the previous year because they were afraid of confrontations or other problems.

The new law, she said, would help change cultural perceptions of trans children and “hopefully influence how students treat each other in and outside of school.”

“Trans children are harassed and bullied for daring to be themselves,” Huttle said. “This has to stop.”

Christie and his office did not make public comments about the bill, and the governor did not issue a signing statement on Friday. But it is one of the most comprehensive measures protecting transgender student rights in the country, and New Jersey is now the 11th state to issue such guidance for schools.

“We are ecstatic that the governor has decided to stand on the right side of history by protecting all of New Jersey’s residents,” said Christian Fuscarino, executive director of Garden State Equality, the state’s largest LGBT rights group. “After years of him vetoing bill after bill that would protect LGBT New Jerseyans, we are pleasantly surprised.”

Christie signed a separate bill (A4568), also sponsored by Huttle, prohibiting health insurers from denying coverage or services or setting higher premiums based on gender identity. The new law also bars insurers from listing gender identity as a pre-existing condition for which coverage can be denied.

“Antiquated policies and attitudes towards transgender individuals have led to discrimination, violence, depression and suicide,” Huttle said in a statement. “While tremendous strides have been made in recent years to advance equality for members of the ‘LGB’ community, much more still needs to be done to help protect our brothers and sisters in the ‘T’ community.”

Transgender bathroom access has been a hot topic nationwide since North Carolina last year passed a controversial “bathroom bill,” which required transgender individuals to use facilities corresponding to their birth sex. New Jersey’s new law prevents such measures from being implemented in its schools. (North Carolina later repealed that law and replaced it with another measure that also drew intense opposition from LGBT advocates.)

When North Carolina passed the law, Christie said he would not consider similar legislation in New Jersey. But in 2015, Christie vetoed a bill that would have permitted New Jersey residents to amend their gender designation on birth certificates following gender reassignment surgery.

On the other hand, Christie also received praise from LGBT advocates for signing a ban on “gay conversion therapy” for minors in 2013, outlawing that controversial practice in New Jersey and defending the ban from several court challenges all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ultimately left the ban in place.

“As he did with the conversion therapy ban, Governor Christie took a stand for LGBT youth in New Jersey by signing this important legislation, and he deserves our thanks,” Fuscarino said Friday of the new measure on transgender students.

Filed Under: Politics, New Jersey Politics, News, Chris Christie, Nj Politics, Nj Legislature, Transgender Rights, Valerie Vainieri Huttel, Bathroom Bill

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The first bill, which takes effect immediately, would require the state to issue guidelines to address names and pronouns school personnel should use when referring to a student. | Getty

Christie signs bill to extend protections for transgender students

By LINH TAT | 07/21/2017 05:03 PM EDT

Gov. Chris Christie on Friday signed two bills that will provide sweeping new protections for transgender residents, including a measure that could force local schools to adopt new measures to better guard students' rights.

One bill, NJ S3067 (16R), requires the state's education commissioner to develop guidelines for school districts on how to deal with issues facing transgender students. The second

measure, NJ A4568 (16R), bars health insurers and health care providers from discriminating in their coverage or services based on gender identity.

The governor did not comment on either of the bills he signed.

“Both bills [show] that discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated in our state, whether it’s in our education system or whether it’s in our health care system,” said Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttel, the sponsor of both measures.

Christian Fuscarino, executive director of the LGBT advocacy group Garden State Equality, said members are “pleasantly surprised” by Christie’s signing of the transgender student bill.

In March, the Republican governor said policies concerning transgender students should be left up to individual school districts and refused to issue statewide “edicts” on the matter. Garden State Equality at the time called Christie “cruel and indifferent.”

On Friday, Fuscarino was more complimentary of the governor.

“We’re glad that Christie is standing on the right side of history on these bills,” he said.

Besides setting guidelines on transgender students’ use of restrooms and locker rooms and their participation in gender-segregated activities like sports, the first bill, which takes effect immediately, would require the state to issue guidelines to address names and pronouns school personnel should use when referring to a student, permit students to dress consistent

with their gender identity, and ensure counselors are trained about issues and concerns relevant to transgender students, among other things.

New Jersey will be the 11th state to issue guidelines, Vainieri Huttle said.

“This is a huge victory for equality,” she said. “These guidelines are needed to ensure that transgender students can be themselves without fear. And it will promote a culture of acceptance and understanding.”

The other measure, NJ A4568 (16R), would prohibit state-regulated insurers, the health plans for public workers and teachers, and Medicaid from discriminating in providing coverage or services based on gender identity, including transition-related care. It takes effect Nov. 1.

The state Department of Banking and Insurance has already adopted regulations to comply with the non-discrimination clause of the Affordable Care Act, requiring all state-regulated insurers to remove any exclusions. But with the ACA’s future uncertain, LGBT advocates said it was critical for the state to strengthen protections without relying on the federal mandate.

Vainieri Huttle is the sponsor of another bill, NJ A4567 (16R), which would establish a transgender equality task force, and two resolutions to designate a transgender awareness week, NJ AJR139 (16R), and designate a Transgender Day of Remembrance, NJ AJR140 (16R).

Those measures have not reached the governor’s desk, but she expressed optimism about their prospects after Friday’s bill signings.

“I think that this is very reassuring that we will continue to strengthen transgender rights,” she said.

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