

(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: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MM

T & E
and Note to
N.J.S.18A:39-1
and
N.J.S.18A:39-1a

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 326, *approved January 16, 2024*
Assembly, No. 5412 (Second Reprint)

1 AN ACT concerning a nonpublic school pupil transportation
2 program ²[and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes]².
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. As used in this section, “consortium” means a group of
9 nonpublic schools in one or more counties that enroll pupils for whom
10 a school district is required to provide transportation pursuant to
11 N.J.S.18A:39-1 and that enter into an agreement to form a consortium
12 for the purpose of participating in the program established pursuant to
13 this section.

14 b. (1) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a
15 nonpublic school consortium transportation program. Notwithstanding
16 any section of law to the contrary, a school district that chooses to
17 participate in the program shall disburse to the consortium an amount
18 equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount for each nonpublic
19 school pupil who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the
20 consortium and who is required to be transported by the school district
21 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1. The consortium shall assume all of the
22 responsibilities of the school district under N.J.S.18A:39-1 for
23 transporting to and from nonpublic schools the pupils for whom the
24 consortium received an aid in-lieu-of transportation amount under the
25 program. If the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received exceeds the
26 aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, then the parent or guardian of the
27 student shall be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of transportation
28 amount from the consortium for that school year.

29 (2) The consortium may transport a nonpublic school pupil who is
30 attending a nonpublic school which is part of the consortium and who
31 is not eligible for transportation services pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1,
32 provided the pupil does not live more than 20 miles from the
33 nonpublic school. If the parent or guardian elects to have the pupil
34 transported, the parent or guardian shall pay all of the costs of the
35 transportation including, but not limited to, the cost of fuel, driver

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 8, 2023.

²Senate floor amendments adopted January 8, 2024.

1 salaries, and insurance. However, the cost of the transportation paid by
2 the parent or guardian shall be no more than the per pupil cost of the
3 route and shall be paid at the time and in the manner determined by the
4 consortium.

5 c. (1) The consortium shall refund to a school district, after the
6 completion of the school year, a portion of the aid-in-lieu-of amount
7 provided by that school district to the consortium for a nonpublic
8 school pupil who did not receive transportation for the entire year.
9 The amount refunded to the school district shall be a pro rata share of
10 the aid-in-lieu-of amount based on the number of school days in which
11 the student did not receive transportation.

12 (2) After complying with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
13 subsection, the consortium shall refund to the school districts, after the
14 completion of the school year, any unexpended funds received
15 pursuant to the program. The consortium shall allocate the
16 unexpended funds among the school districts in proportion to the
17 number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district
18 distributed funds to the consortium.

19 d. A school district shall inform the consortium by May 15 of its
20 intent not to participate in the program in the following school year.

21 e. In order to participate in the program, the consortium shall
22 provide to the commissioner the necessary assurances that the
23 consortium is capable of complying with the consortium's pupil
24 transportation responsibilities under the program.

25 f. The commissioner shall notify school districts participating in
26 the program of:

27 (1) the consortium's responsibilities under the program to provide
28 pupil transportation to pupils attending a nonpublic school which is
29 part of the consortium;

30 (2) the requirement that the school district provide transportation
31 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1 to pupils attending nonpublic schools that
32 are not a part of the consortium; and

33 (3) the amount required to be disbursed by each school district to
34 the consortium pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

35 g. The consortium may use up to six percent of the amounts
36 available to it under the program for its administrative costs. The
37 consortium may accept contributions and donations from public and
38 private sources for purposes of providing pupil transportation under
39 the program, including transportation provided pursuant to paragraph
40 (2) of subsection b. of this section.

41 h. The consortium shall annually enter into a contract with an
42 independent entity to audit the implementation of the program by the
43 consortium. The audit for the prior school year shall be submitted to
44 the commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.

45 i. The commissioner shall establish an oversight committee to
46 oversee the operations of each consortium in implementing the
47 program. The oversight committee shall consist of five members
48 appointed by the commissioner, one of whom shall represent a

1 nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one of whom shall
2 represent a school district participating in the program.

3 j. ¹Nothing in this act shall be construed to alter the amount paid
4 by the State for nonpublic school transportation costs pursuant to
5 section 2 of P.L.1981, c.57 (C.18A:39-1a) for any school district that
6 participates in the program.

7 k.¹ The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant
8 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
9 seq.), to effectuate the provisions of this act in a manner that comports
10 with the provisions of the State and federal Constitutions. The rules
11 shall include, but shall not be limited to, the process and schedule for
12 the disbursement of funds by the school district to the consortium.

13
14 ²2. Three years following the establishment of the nonpublic
15 school consortium transportation program, the commissioner, in
16 consultation with the oversight committee established pursuant to
17 subsection i. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
18 the Legislature as this bill), shall submit a report to the Governor,
19 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
20 (C.52:14-19.1) on the implementation of the program.²

21
22 ²[2.] 3.² This act shall take effect immediately ²[and] ,² shall
23 first be applicable to the 2023-2024 school year ², and shall expire
24 three years after the effective date².

25
26
27
28
29 Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide
30 funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume
31 responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5412

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/8/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning a nonpublic school pupil transportation
2 program and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section, “consortium” means a group of
9 nonpublic schools in one or more counties that enroll pupils for
10 whom a school district is required to provide transportation
11 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1 and that enter into an agreement to form
12 a consortium for the purpose of participating in the program
13 established pursuant to this section.

14 b. (1) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a
15 nonpublic school consortium transportation program.
16 Notwithstanding any section of law to the contrary, a school district
17 that chooses to participate in the program shall disburse to the
18 consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation
19 amount for each nonpublic school pupil who is attending a
20 nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is
21 required to be transported by the school district pursuant to
22 N.J.S.18A:39-1. The consortium shall assume all of the
23 responsibilities of the school district under N.J.S.18A:39-1 for
24 transporting to and from nonpublic schools the pupils for whom the
25 consortium received an aid in-lieu-of transportation amount under
26 the program. If the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received
27 exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, then the parent or
28 guardian of the student shall be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of
29 transportation amount from the consortium for that school year.

30 (2) The consortium may transport a nonpublic school pupil who
31 is attending a nonpublic school which is part of the consortium and
32 who is not eligible for transportation services pursuant to
33 N.J.S.18A:39-1, provided the pupil does not live more than 20
34 miles from the nonpublic school. If the parent or guardian elects to
35 have the pupil transported, the parent or guardian shall pay all of
36 the costs of the transportation including, but not limited to, the cost
37 of fuel, driver salaries, and insurance. However, the cost of the
38 transportation paid by the parent or guardian shall be no more than
39 the per pupil cost of the route and shall be paid at the time and in
40 the manner determined by the consortium.

41 c. (1) The consortium shall refund to a school district, after the
42 completion of the school year, a portion of the aid-in-lieu-of
43 amount provided by that school district to the consortium for a
44 nonpublic school pupil who did not receive transportation for the
45 entire year. The amount refunded to the school district shall be a
46 pro rata share of the aid-in-lieu-of amount based on the number of
47 school days in which the student did not receive transportation.

48 (2) After complying with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this

1 subsection, the consortium shall refund to the school districts, after
2 the completion of the school year, any unexpended funds received
3 pursuant to the program. The consortium shall allocate the
4 unexpended funds among the school districts in proportion to the
5 number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district
6 distributed funds to the consortium.

7 d. A school district shall inform the consortium by May 15 of its
8 intent not to participate in the program in the following school year.

9 e. In order to participate in the program, the consortium shall
10 provide to the commissioner the necessary assurances that the
11 consortium is capable of complying with the consortium's pupil
12 transportation responsibilities under the program.

13 f. The commissioner shall notify school districts participating
14 in the program of:

15 (1) the consortium's responsibilities under the program to
16 provide pupil transportation to pupils attending a nonpublic school
17 which is part of the consortium;

18 (2) the requirement that the school district provide
19 transportation pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1 to pupils attending
20 nonpublic schools that are not a part of the consortium; and

21 (3) the amount required to be disbursed by each school district
22 to the consortium pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

23 g. The consortium may use up to six percent of the amounts
24 available to it under the program for its administrative costs. The
25 consortium may accept contributions and donations from public and
26 private sources for purposes of providing pupil transportation under
27 the program, including transportation provided pursuant to
28 paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section.

29 h. The consortium shall annually enter into a contract with an
30 independent entity to audit the implementation of the program by
31 the consortium. The audit for the prior school year shall be
32 submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of each
33 year.

34 i. The commissioner shall establish an oversight committee to
35 oversee the operations of each consortium in implementing the
36 program. The oversight committee shall consist of five members
37 appointed by the commissioner, one of whom shall represent a
38 nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one of whom
39 shall represent a school district participating in the program.

40 j. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
41 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
42 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the provisions of this act in a
43 manner that comports with the provisions of the State and federal
44 Constitutions. The rules shall include, but shall not be limited to,
45 the process and schedule for the disbursement of funds by the
46 school district to the consortium.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
2 applicable to the 2023-2024 school year.

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 This bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium
8 transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of
9 nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating
10 school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those
11 students.

12 Under the program, a participating school district will disburse to
13 the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation
14 amount (currently set at \$1,022) for each nonpublic school pupil
15 who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the
16 consortium and who is required by law to be transported by a school
17 district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of
18 transporting the pupils for whom it receives the aid in-lieu-of
19 transportation amount.

20 The bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid
21 received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent
22 or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-
23 of transportation amount from the consortium for that school year.
24 In addition to providing transportation for students who are
25 mandated to be transported, the consortium may provide non-
26 mandated busing to students attending the nonpublic schools that
27 are a part of the consortium, provided that the parents or guardians
28 of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

29 At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to
30 individual participating school districts a portion of the aid-in-lieu-
31 of amount the district provided to the consortium for a nonpublic
32 school student who did not receive transportation for the entire
33 school year. If any unexpended funds remain, the bill requires the
34 consortium to allocate that amount among the school districts in
35 proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the
36 school district distributed funds to the consortium.

37 The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a
38 committee to oversee the operations of each consortium in
39 implementing the program. The oversight committee will consist of
40 five members appointed by the commissioner, one of whom must
41 represent a nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one
42 of whom must represent a school district that is participating in the
43 program. Under the provisions of the bill, the consortium is
44 required to annually enter into a contract with an independent entity
45 to audit the implementation of the program and the audit is required
46 to be submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of
47 each year.

48 The bill takes effect immediately and provides that the program
49 will first be applicable in the 2023-2024 school year.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5412

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2023

The Assembly Education committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5412 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those students.

Under the program, a participating school district will disburse to the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount (currently set at \$1,022) for each nonpublic school pupil who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is required by law to be transported by a school district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of transporting the pupils for whom it receives the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount.

The amended bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount from the consortium for that school year. In addition to providing transportation for students who are mandated to be transported, the consortium may provide non-mandated busing to students attending the nonpublic schools that are a part of the consortium, provided that the parents or guardians of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to individual participating school districts a portion of the aid-in-lieu-of amount the district provided to the consortium for a nonpublic school student who did not receive transportation for the entire school year. If any unexpended funds remain, the bill requires the consortium to allocate that amount among the school districts in proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district distributed funds to the consortium.

The amended bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a committee to oversee the operations of each consortium in implementing the program. The oversight committee will consist of five members appointed by the commissioner, one of whom must

represent a nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one of whom must represent a school district that is participating in the program. Under the provisions of the amended bill, the consortium is required to annually enter into a contract with an independent entity to audit the implementation of the program and the audit is required to be submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.

The amended bill provides that nothing in the bill is to be construed as altering the amount paid by the State for nonpublic school transportation costs pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:39-1a for any school district that participates in the program.

The bill takes effect immediately and provides that the program will first be applicable in the 2023-2024 school year.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to provide that nothing in the bill is to be construed as altering the amount paid by the State for nonpublic school transportation costs pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:39-1a for any school district that participates in the program.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5412

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5412 (1R).

This bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those students.

Under the program, a participating school district will disburse to the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount (currently set at \$1,022) for each nonpublic school pupil who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is required by law to be transported by a school district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of transporting the pupils for whom it receives the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount.

The amended bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount from the consortium for that school year. In addition to providing transportation for students who are mandated to be transported, the consortium may provide non-mandated busing to students attending the nonpublic schools that are a part of the consortium, provided that the parents or guardians of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to individual participating school districts a portion of the aid-in-lieu-of amount the district provided to the consortium for a nonpublic school student who did not receive transportation for the entire school year. If any unexpended funds remain, the bill requires the consortium to allocate that amount among the school districts in proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district distributed funds to the consortium.

The amended bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a committee to oversee the operations of each consortium in implementing the program. The oversight committee will consist of five members appointed by the commissioner, one of whom must represent a nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one

of whom must represent a school district that is participating in the program. Under the provisions of the amended bill, the consortium is required to annually enter into a contract with an independent entity to audit the implementation of the program and the audit is required to be submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.

The amended bill provides that nothing in the bill is to be construed as altering the amount paid by the State for nonpublic school transportation costs pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:39-1a for any school district that participates in the program.

The bill takes effect immediately and provides that the program will first be applicable in the 2023-2024 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently available.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 5412

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator GOPAL)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 8, 2024

Assembly Bill No. 5412(1R) establishes a nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing.

These Senate floor amendments provide that the bill's provisions will expire three years from the bill's effective date. The amendments also require the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the oversight committee established pursuant to the bill's provisions, to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the implementation of the program.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5412

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 26, 2023

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.
Annual school district expenditure and revenue increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education; local school districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate
Local Cost Increase	Indeterminate
Local Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will result in an indeterminate annual increase in State costs associated with the creation of consortiums for nonpublic school transportation. The magnitude of the cost increase would depend on the number of consortiums created and the cost per pupil of providing transportation for each consortium.
- Based on assumptions and data described in detail in the fiscal analysis, the OLS estimates that this bill could cost as much as \$12.1 million in FY 2024. However, actual cost increases are likely to be more moderate, considering that the State does reimburse some districts for some amount of per pupil costs. The OLS does not have access to specific data concerning per pupil transportation costs needed to provide a more precise estimate.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those students.

Under the bill, a participating school district will pay to the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, currently \$1,022, for each nonpublic school pupil residing in the district who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is required by law to be transported by the district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of transporting the pupils for whom it receives payment from the school district. A consortium may provide non-mandated transportation to students attending the nonpublic schools, provided that the parents or guardians of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

The bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount from the consortium for that school district. At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to the resident school district a portion of the aid in-lieu-of amount for a nonpublic school student who did not receive transportation for the entire school year. If any funds remain unexpended by the consortium at the end of the school year, the consortium is required to allocate that amount among the participating school districts in proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district paid the consortium.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill will result in an indeterminate increase in State costs associated with the creation of consortiums for nonpublic school transportation. The magnitude of the cost increase for the State would depend on the number of consortiums created and the cost per pupil of providing transportation for each consortium compared to the current cost per pupil of providing transportation in each participating school district.

Currently, school districts are responsible for providing transportation services to certain nonpublic school students, and the State reimburses districts for per pupil transportation costs in excess of \$710 and up to \$1,022. Under the bill, a school district would pay to the consortium \$1,022 regardless of actual per pupil transportation costs incurred by the consortium. The State would then reimburse school districts the maximum amount possible.

Based on data from the Department of Education, an estimated 38,772 nonpublic school students will receive transportation services in the 2023-2024 school year. Assuming that the State does not currently reimburse school districts for per pupil transportation costs in excess of \$710 for any of these students and that a consortium would become responsible for providing transportation services for each of these students, the bill would result in an increase in State costs of \$12.1 million. However, actual cost increases are likely to be more moderate, considering that the State does reimburse some districts for some amount of per pupil costs. The OLS does not have access to detailed information about actual per pupil transportation costs that would enable a more precise estimate.

A school district may experience a slight revenue increase to the extent that any nonpublic school students residing in the district do not receive transportation services from the consortium for the entire school year and the consortium is required to return a portion of the funding provided for those students to the resident school district.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Abigail Chambers
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 3850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 15, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Sarlo and Lagana

SYNOPSIS

Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning a nonpublic school pupil transportation
2 program and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section, “consortium” means a group of
9 nonpublic schools in one or more counties that enroll pupils for
10 whom a school district is required to provide transportation
11 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1 and that enter into an agreement to form
12 a consortium for the purpose of participating in the program
13 established pursuant to this section.

14 b. (1) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a
15 nonpublic school consortium transportation program.
16 Notwithstanding any section of law to the contrary, a school district
17 that chooses to participate in the program shall disburse to the
18 consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation
19 amount for each nonpublic school pupil who is attending a
20 nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is
21 required to be transported by the school district pursuant to
22 N.J.S.18A:39-1. The consortium shall assume all of the
23 responsibilities of the school district under N.J.S.18A:39-1 for
24 transporting to and from nonpublic schools the pupils for whom the
25 consortium received an aid in-lieu-of transportation amount under
26 the program. If the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received
27 exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, then the parent or
28 guardian of the student shall be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of
29 transportation amount from the consortium for that school year.

30 (2) The consortium may transport a nonpublic school pupil who
31 is attending a nonpublic school which is part of the consortium and
32 who is not eligible for transportation services pursuant to
33 N.J.S.18A:39-1, provided the pupil does not live more than 20
34 miles from the nonpublic school. If the parent or guardian elects to
35 have the pupil transported, the parent or guardian shall pay all of
36 the costs of the transportation including, but not limited to, the cost
37 of fuel, driver salaries, and insurance. However, the cost of the
38 transportation paid by the parent or guardian shall be no more than
39 the per pupil cost of the route and shall be paid at the time and in
40 the manner determined by the consortium.

41 c. (1) The consortium shall refund to a school district, after the
42 completion of the school year, a portion of the aid-in-lieu-of
43 amount provided by that school district to the consortium for a
44 nonpublic school pupil who did not receive transportation for the
45 entire year. The amount refunded to the school district shall be a
46 pro rata share of the aid-in-lieu-of amount based on the number of
47 school days in which the student did not receive transportation.

1 (2) After complying with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
2 subsection, the consortium shall refund to the school districts, after
3 the completion of the school year, any unexpended funds received
4 pursuant to the program. The consortium shall allocate the
5 unexpended funds among the school districts in proportion to the
6 number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district
7 distributed funds to the consortium.

8 d. A school district shall inform the consortium by May 15 of its
9 intent not to participate in the program in the following school year.

10 e. In order to participate in the program, the consortium shall
11 provide to the commissioner the necessary assurances that the
12 consortium is capable of complying with the consortium's pupil
13 transportation responsibilities under the program.

14 f. The commissioner shall notify school districts participating
15 in the program of:

16 (1) the consortium's responsibilities under the program to
17 provide pupil transportation to pupils attending a nonpublic school
18 which is part of the consortium;

19 (2) the requirement that the school district provide
20 transportation pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1 to pupils attending
21 nonpublic schools that are not a part of the consortium; and

22 (3) the amount required to be disbursed by each school district
23 to the consortium pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

24 g. The consortium may use up to six percent of the amounts
25 available to it under the program for its administrative costs. The
26 consortium may accept contributions and donations from public and
27 private sources for purposes of providing pupil transportation under
28 the program, including transportation provided pursuant to
29 paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section.

30 h. The consortium shall annually enter into a contract with an
31 independent entity to audit the implementation of the program by
32 the consortium. The audit for the prior school year shall be
33 submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of each
34 year.

35 i. The commissioner shall establish an oversight committee to
36 oversee the operations of each consortium in implementing the
37 program. The oversight committee shall consist of five members
38 appointed by the commissioner, one of whom shall represent a
39 nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one of whom
40 shall represent a school district participating in the program.

41 j. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
42 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the provisions of this act in a
44 manner that comports with the provisions of the State and federal
45 Constitutions. The rules shall include, but shall not be limited to,
46 the process and schedule for the disbursement of funds by the
47 school district to the consortium.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
2 applicable to the 2023-2024 school year.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium
8 transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of
9 nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating
10 school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those
11 students.

12 Under the program, a participating school district will disburse to
13 the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation
14 amount (currently set at \$1,022) for each nonpublic school pupil
15 who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the
16 consortium and who is required by law to be transported by a school
17 district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of
18 transporting the pupils for whom it receives the aid in-lieu-of
19 transportation amount.

20 The bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid
21 received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent
22 or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-
23 of transportation amount from the consortium for that school year.
24 In addition to providing transportation for students who are
25 mandated to be transported, the consortium may provide non-
26 mandated busing to students attending the nonpublic schools that
27 are a part of the consortium, provided that the parents or guardians
28 of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

29 At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to
30 individual participating school districts a portion of the aid-in-lieu-
31 of amount the district provided to the consortium for a nonpublic
32 school student who did not receive transportation for the entire
33 school year. If any unexpended funds remain, the bill requires the
34 consortium to allocate that amount among the school districts in
35 proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the
36 school district distributed funds to the consortium.

37 The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a
38 committee to oversee the operations of each consortium in
39 implementing the program. The oversight committee will consist of
40 five members appointed by the commissioner, one of whom must
41 represent a nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one
42 of whom must represent a school district that is participating in the
43 program. Under the provisions of the bill, the consortium is
44 required to annually enter into a contract with an independent entity
45 to audit the implementation of the program and the audit is required
46 to be submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of
47 each year.

S3850 GOPAL, SINGER

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- 1 The bill takes effect immediately and provides that the program
- 2 will first be applicable in the 2023-2024 school year.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3850.

This bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those students.

Under the program, a participating school district will disburse to the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount (currently set at \$1,022) for each nonpublic school pupil who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is required by law to be transported by a school district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of transporting the pupils for whom it receives the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount.

The bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount from the consortium for that school year. In addition to providing transportation for students who are mandated to be transported, the consortium may provide non-mandated busing to students attending the nonpublic schools that are a part of the consortium, provided that the parents or guardians of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to individual participating school districts a portion of the aid-in-lieu-of amount the district provided to the consortium for a nonpublic school student who did not receive transportation for the entire school year. If any unexpended funds remain, the bill requires the consortium to allocate that amount among the school districts in proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district distributed funds to the consortium.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a committee to oversee the operations of each consortium in implementing the program. The oversight committee will consist of five members appointed by the commissioner, one of whom must represent a nonpublic school that is part of the consortium, and one of whom must represent a school district that is participating in the program. Under the provisions of the bill, the consortium is required to annually enter into a contract with an independent entity to audit the

implementation of the program and the audit is required to be submitted to the commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.

The bill takes effect immediately and provides that the program will first be applicable in the 2023-2024 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will result in an indeterminate increase in State costs associated with the creation of consortiums for nonpublic school transportation. The magnitude of the cost increase for the State would depend on the number of consortiums created and the cost per pupil of providing transportation for each consortium.

Currently, school districts are responsible for providing transportation services to certain nonpublic school students, and the State reimburses districts for per pupil transportation costs in excess of \$710 and up to \$1,022. Under the bill, a school district would pay to the consortium \$1,022 regardless of actual per pupil transportation costs incurred by the consortium. Based on data from the Department of Education, an estimated 38,772 nonpublic school students will receive transportation services in the 2023-2024 school year. Assuming that the State does not currently reimburse school districts for per pupil transportation costs in excess of \$710 for any of these students, the bill would result in an increase in State costs of \$12 million. However, actual cost increases are likely to be more moderate, considering that the State does reimburse some districts for some amount of per pupil costs. The OLS does not have access to detailed information about actual per pupil transportation costs that would enable a more precise estimate.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3850

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator GOPAL)

ADOPTED: JUNE 20, 2023

Senate Bill No. 3850 establishes a nonpublic school consortium transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those students. These Senate amendments stipulate that nothing in the bill is to be construed as altering the amount paid by the State for nonpublic school transportation costs pursuant to N.J.S.A18A:39-1a for any school district that participates in the program. These amendments make this bill identical to Assembly Bill No. 5412 (1R).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3850 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 26, 2023

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.
Annual school district expenditure and revenue increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education; local school districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate
Local Cost Increase	Indeterminate
Local Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will result in an indeterminate annual increase in State costs associated with the creation of consortiums for nonpublic school transportation. The magnitude of the cost increase would depend on the number of consortiums created and the cost per pupil of providing transportation for each consortium.
- Based on assumptions and data described in detail in the fiscal analysis, the OLS estimates that this bill could cost as much as \$12.1 million in FY 2024. However, actual cost increases are likely to be more moderate, considering that the State does reimburse some districts for some amount of per pupil costs. The OLS does not have access to specific data concerning per pupil transportation costs needed to provide a more precise estimate.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes a nonpublic school consortium transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for participating school districts' mandated nonpublic school busing for those students.

Under the bill, a participating school district will pay to the consortium an amount equal to the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, currently \$1,022, for each nonpublic school pupil residing in the district who is attending a nonpublic school which is a part of the consortium and who is required by law to be transported to the district. The consortium is to assume the responsibilities of transporting the pupils for whom it receives payment from the school district. A consortium may provide non-mandated transportation to students attending the nonpublic schools, provided that the parents or guardians of those students pay all of the costs of that transportation.

The bill provides that if the per pupil cost of the lowest bid received exceeds the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount, the parent or guardian of the student will be eligible to receive the aid in-lieu-of transportation amount from the consortium for that school district. At the end of the school year, the consortium will refund to the resident school district a portion of the aid in-lieu-of amount for a nonpublic school student who did not receive transportation for the entire school year. If any funds remain unexpended by the consortium at the end of the school year, the consortium is required to allocate that amount among the participating school districts in proportion to the number of nonpublic school pupils for whom the school district paid the consortium.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill will result in an indeterminate increase in State costs associated with the creation of consortiums for nonpublic school transportation. The magnitude of the cost increase for the State would depend on the number of consortiums created and the cost per pupil of providing transportation for each consortium compared to the current cost per pupil of providing transportation in each participating school district.

Currently, school districts are responsible for providing transportation services to certain nonpublic school students, and the State reimburses districts for per pupil transportation costs in excess of \$710 and up to \$1,022. Under the bill, a school district would pay to the consortium \$1,022 regardless of actual per pupil transportation costs incurred by the consortium. The State would then reimburse school districts the maximum amount possible.

Based on data from the Department of Education, an estimated 38,772 nonpublic school students will receive transportation services in the 2023-2024 school year. Assuming that the State does not currently reimburse school districts for per pupil transportation costs in excess of \$710

for any of these students and that a consortium would become responsible for providing transportation services for each of these students, the bill would result in an increase in State costs of \$12.1 million. However, actual cost increases are likely to be more moderate, considering that the State does reimburse some districts for some amount of per pupil costs. The OLS does not have access to detailed information about actual per pupil transportation costs that would enable a more precise estimate.

A school district may experience a slight revenue increase to the extent that any nonpublic school students residing in the district do not receive transportation services from the consortium for the entire school year and the consortium is required to return a portion of the funding provided for those students to the resident school district.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Abigail Chambers
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

01/16/2024

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

SCS for S-281/ACS for A-3791 (Greenstein, Turner/Sumter, Reynolds-Jackson) – w/STATEMENT - Concerns automatic fire sprinkler systems within newly constructed townhouses

[Copy of Statement](#)

S-539wGR/A-2140 (Ruiz, Pou/Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Mosquera) - Permits online purchase of eligible foods using WIC funds and use of WIC funds for grocery delivery charges

S-659/A-2014 (Oroho, Greenstein/Conaway, Wirths, Umba) - “Manufacturing in Higher Education Act”; requires various State entities to promote manufacturing career pathways for students and provides assistance to manufacturing industry

S-1110/A-3936 (Polistina, Singleton/Guardian, Swift, McClellan) - Authorizes CRDA to finance transportation projects between Atlantic City Airport and Atlantic City Tourism District

S-1662/A-3526 (Ruiz, Codey/Lampitt, Benson, Sauckie) - Requires NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council to prepare report regarding suicide prevention instruction in public schools

S-1680wGR/A-2257 (Pou, Ruiz/Murphy, Quijano, Wimberly) - Designates each community college in State as provider of allowable services under SNAP employment and training program

S-2076/ACS for A-3319 (Zwicker, Greenstein/McKnight, Lampitt) - Establishes “Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition Year Pilot Program” in Department of Education

S-2535wGR/A-4048 (Polistina, Pou/Benson, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter) - Requires health benefits coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants

S-2841/A-4292 (Scutari, Bramnick/Carter) - Raises minimum amount of liability coverage for commercial motor vehicles and autocabs

SCS for S-3080/ACS for-398 (Ruiz, Burgess/Caputo, Giblin, Tucker) - Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes “School Disconnection Prevention Task Force”; appropriates \$200,000

S-3102/A-4715 (Smith, Singleton/Stanley, Benson) - Establishes uptime requirement for electric vehicle charging station incentive programs

S-3176/A-4760 (Greenstein, Smith/Swain, Haider, Tully) - Requires DEP and Drinking Water Quality Institute to perform study concerning regulation and treatment of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

SCS for S-3632 and 3649w/GR/ACS for A-1948 (Johnson, Cryan/Haider, Conaway, Quijano) - Requires labeling of non-flushable disposable wipes

S-3758/A-5343 (Cryan/Karabinchak) - Changes deadline for unaffiliated mail-in voters to declare their political party before primary election

S-3837/A-5438 (Pou, Cruz-Perez/Pintor Marin, Wimberly) - Clarifies process for administrative appropriations to UEZs

S-3897/A-5578 (Ruiz, Sarlo/Jasey, Carter, Reynolds-Jackson) - Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award annual summer tuition aid grants

S-4040/A-5881 (Polistina, Lagana/Tully, Guardian, Swift) - Concerns jurisdiction and operations of regional municipal courts

S-4084/A-5851 (Ruiz, Cruz-Perez/Moriarty, Calabrese, Moen) - Concerns temporary registration certificates and license plates

S-4130/A-5849 (Codey/Jasey, Tucker) - Special legislation to change name of “Township of South Orange Village” to “South Orange Village”; changes titles of certain municipal officials; permits nonpartisan municipal elections to be moved to November; permits stipend for governing body members

S-4206/A-5856 (Sarlo/Calabrese) - Changes number of signatures required on primary election petition to nominate certain municipal candidates in certain municipalities

S-4209/A-5879 (Sarlo/Pintor Marin) - Eliminates vote on school budgets for Type II school districts in April elections, except for separate proposals to spend above cap

S-4268/A-5911 (Scutari/Danielsen) - Permits certain special State officers to represent cannabis businesses

A-203/S-2884 (Rooney, Benson, Caputo/A.M. Bucco) - Authorizes creation of special license plates commemorating horse as State animal

A-1100/S-995 (Calabrese, Mukherji, McKnight/Ruiz, Stack) - Requires entities to remove abandoned lines and mark information on certain lines

A-1107/S-770 (Chaparro, Murphy, Mukherji/Pou, Beach) - Directs Chief Technology Officer to conduct study on impacts of redacting handwritten signatures published on State websites; allows for protocols for such redactions to be established by rules and regulations

ACS for A-1255/SS for S-1794 (Stanley, Conaway, Benson/Gopal, Singer) - Updates requirements and standards for authorization and prior authorization of health care services

A-1727/S-3300 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Stanfield, Ruiz) - Requires Attorney General to perform outreach and provide services to victims of human trafficking under certain circumstances

A-1729/S-3550 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight/Greenstein, Ruiz) - Requires AG to address human trafficking in underserved communities

A-1755/S-2505 (McKeon, Calabrese, Conaway/Smith, Greenstein) - Requires installation of operational automatic rain sensor or smart sprinkler as condition of sale of certain real properties, and on certain commercial, retail, and industrial properties and common interest communities within specified timeframes

A-2146wGR/S-855 (Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Sumter/Singleton, Beach) - Creates State business assistance program to establish contracting agency procurement goals for socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises

A-2581/S-2503 (Lampitt, Park/Beach) - Provides that certain cosmetology and hairstyling courses may be taught using distance learning technology

A-3142/S-1564 (Moen, Moriarty, Benson/Singleton, Corrado) - Authorizes grants to purchase and rehabilitate abandoned homes for homeless veterans

A-3211/S-2302 (Speight, Haider, Swain/Gopal, Ruiz) - Establishes “New Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act”

A-3980/S-2706 (Speight, McKnight, Atkins/Zwicker, Turner) - Grants child placed in resource family care and resource family parents the right to be notified when case manager or supervisor is assigned to child; grants child in resource family care right to be notified of certain property and benefits

A-4033wGR/S-2657 (Coughlin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Ruiz) - Extends deadline for completion of school district’s annual audit

A-4049/S-3495 (McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson/Vitale, Johnson) - Provides for presumptive eligibility for home and community-based services and services provided through program of all-inclusive care for the elderly under Medicaid

A-4105/S-4202 (Lopez, Jimenez, Quijano/Vitale, Turner) - Establishes Interagency Council on Homelessness

A-4183/S-4264 (Haider/Singleton) - Concerns local unit filing requirement for certain shared services agreements

A-4212/S-2762 (Pintor Marin, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Ruiz, Cunningham) - Establishes Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey at Thomas Edison State University

A-4337/S-4156 (Conaway, Atkins, Rooney/Singleton, Pou) - Requires Department of Health to provide information to Statewide 2-1-1 telephone system regarding the location of safe disposal sites for hypodermic syringes and needles and prescription drugs

ACS for A-4496/SCS for S-3247 (Coughlin, Lampitt, Karabinchak, Wimberly/Zwicker, Greenstein) - Revises various provisions of law governing construction of school facilities projects and operations of New Jersey Schools Development Authority; establishes "Charter School and Renaissance School Project Facilities Loan Program" in EDA

A-4522/S-3234 (Moen, McKnight, Quijano/Singer, Singleton) - Requires certain disclosures by sellers of single-family homes with solar panels installed

A-4691/S-1530 (Swain, DeAngelo, Speight/Greenstein, Zwicker) - Requires hazard mitigation plans to include climate change-related threat assessments and hazard prevention and mitigation strategies

A-4723/S-2740 (McKeon, Moriarty, Rooney/Codey, Scutari) - Requires motor vehicle dealer to offer to delete personal information in motor vehicles in certain situations

A-4791/S-3184 (Kennedy, Haider, McKeon/Diegnan, Sarlo) - Establishes "Resiliency and Environmental System Investment Charge Program"

ACS for A-4794/S-3224 (Benson, Mukherji/Singleton, Turner) - Requires request for proposal to establish demonstration projects to develop electric vehicle charging depots serviced by distributed energy resource charging centers for certain electric vehicle use

A-4814/S-1023 (Moen, Wimberly/Singleton, Gopal) - Removes expected family contribution from calculation of financial need under circumstances in which public institutions of higher education may reduce student's institutional financial aid

ACS for A-4821 and 4823wGR/S-3283 (Karabinchak, Conaway, Schaer/Greenstein, Zwicker) - Directs DEP to take certain actions concerning identification and testing of microplastics in drinking water, and requires DEP and BPU to study and promote use of microplastics removal technologies

A-4955/S-3531 (S. Kean, Thomson/Singer, Gopal) - Designates portion of State Highway Route 71 as "John Tarantino Highway"

A-5094/S-3476 (Spearman/Beach, Greenstein) - Concerns licensing of security officer companies

A-5227/S-3662 (Danielsen, Space/Smith, Oroho) - Expands eligibility for "fishing buddy license" fee

A-5285/SCS for S-3708 (Greenwald, Haider, Lopez/Greenstein, A.M. Bucco) - Requires copies of certain law enforcement records to be provided to victims of domestic violence upon request

A-5293/S-3746 (Greenwald, McKnight, Rooney/Gopal, Ruiz) - Concerns New Jersey Civic Information Consortium

A-5311/S-3061 (Verrelli, McKnight, Matsikoudis/Stanfield, Turner) - Enters New Jersey into Counseling Compact

A-5391/S-3765 (DeAngelo/Diegnan, Corrado) - Imposes conditions on drivers approaching disabled vehicles

A-5412/S-3850 (Greenwald, Swain, Jasey/Gopal, Singer) - Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing

A-5416wGR/S-3883 (Wimberly, Giblin, Haider/Greenstein, Turner) - Requires State Board of Education to authorize alternate route to expedite teacher certification of persons employed as paraprofessionals in school districts

A-5442/S-3793 (Karabinchak, Conaway, McKeon/Smith, Greenstein) - Directs BPU to conduct study to determine feasibility, marketability, and costs of implementing large-scale geothermal heat pump systems in State

A-5462/S-3867 (Coughlin, McKnight, Speight/Vitale, Turner) - Revises law establishing Office of Food Security Advocate, and establishes certain conditions for use of monies appropriated to emergency food organizations

ACS for A-5495/SCS for S-3846 (Danielsen/Scutari, A.M. Bucco) - Clarifies types of firearms allowed to be carried or transported while hunting

A-5516/S-4047 (Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli, Conaway/Burgess, Turner) - Requires certain health care professionals to undergo bias training

A-5565/S-3971 (S. Kean, Thomson/Gopal) - Provides that 10-year term does not apply to lease of certain municipal properties unless they are waterfront properties or related to waterfront concessions

A-5567/S-3807 (Torrissi, Calabrese/A.M. Bucco, Sarlo) - Extends period of usefulness of fire engines for bonding purposes from 10 to 20 years; eliminates exclusion of passenger cars and station wagons

A-5582/S-3781 (Swain, Simonsen/Lagana, Cryan) - Establishes grant program for NJ YouthBuild programs through DOLWD; makes appropriation

A-5610wGR/S-3954 (Greenwald, Spearman, Chaparro/Beach, A.M. Bucco) - Revises penalties for possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons

A-5748/S-4166 (Spearman, Moen, Moriarty/Cruz-Perez, Madden) - Amends definition of "participating county" under County Option Hospital Fee Program

A-5755/S-4183 (Carter, Sumter, Wimberly, Quijano/Scutari, Singleton) - Enhances notice requirements and occupancy restrictions for hotels and multiple dwellings following determination of potentially hazardous condition

A-5799/S-1472 (Moen, Moriarty/Beach, Stack) - Authorizes DOT to establish and administer toll collection and enforcement system on behalf of NJ toll authorities and to enter into reciprocal agreements for enforcement of toll violations with toll authorities from other states

A-5806/S-4165 (Moriarty, Sauickie/Greenstein, Oroho) - Appropriates \$48 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to DEP for State acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, including Blue Acres projects, and Green Acres Program administrative costs

A-5807/S-4138 (Freiman/Johnson, Schepisi) - Appropriates \$58 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects

A-5808/S-4135 (Park, Freiman, Lopez/Beach, Turner) - Appropriates \$15,564,293 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to NJ Historic Trust for grants for certain historic preservation projects and associated administrative expenses

A-5809/S-4097 (Swain, Lopez, Sauickie/Zwicker, Gopal) - Amends lists of projects eligible to receive loans for environmental infrastructure projects from NJ Infrastructure Bank for FY 2024

A-5810/S-4098 (Sampson, Sauickie, Lopez/Greenstein, Stanfield) - Amends lists of environmental infrastructure projects approved for long-term funding by DEP under FY 2024 environmental infrastructure funding program

A-5828/S-4201 (Lopez/Vitale) - Authorizes State Treasurer to sell as surplus certain real property and improvements in Township of Woodbridge in Middlesex County

A-5835/S-4134 (Greenwald, Lampitt/Beach, Turner) - Authorizes regional authority to develop and operate regional rehabilitation and reentry center

A-5836/S-4212 (DeAngelo, Sumter, Wimberly/Gopal, Greenstein) - Makes supplemental appropriation of \$650,000 to New Jersey Division of State Police for trooper recruitment and retention

A-5910/S-4266 (Egan/Codey) - Increases annual salary of certain public employees and officers

AJR-200/SJR-138 (Park, Freiman, Calabrese/Lagana) - Designates November 22 of each year as Kimchi Day

Governor Murphy pocket vetoed the following bills:

S-2989/A-1739 (Pou, Singer/McKeon, Quijano, Flynn) - Makes certain for-profit debt adjusters eligible for licensing to conduct business in State

S-3172/A-4689 (Gopal, Turner/Lampitt, Matsikoudis, McKnight) - Establishes teacher certification route for candidates with Montessori teaching credentials

S-3287/ACS for A-4852 and 1170 (Turner/Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Dunn, Wimberly, Calabrese, Spearman, Verrilli) - Requires institutions of higher education to maintain supply and develop policy governing use of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for opioid overdose emergencies

A-1476/S-930 (Benson, Dancer/Holzapfel, Diegnan) - Exempts certain motor vehicles that are owned by certain nutrition programs and certain nonprofit organizations that offer social services from motor vehicle registration fees

A-3642/S-665 (Wirths, Murphy, Benson, Oroho/Greenstein) - Requires MVC to place designation on motor vehicle's registration information indicating registrant is deaf

A-3945/S-1660 (Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter/Ruiz, Singleton) - Establishes "Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program"; appropriates \$95,000

A-4177/S-2478 (Mosquera, Swain, McKnight, Tucker, Dunn/Ruiz, Vitale) - Extends duration of law requiring certain provider subsidy payments for child care services be based on enrollment

A-4396/S-2927 (Lampitt, Jasey, Caputo/Codey) - Establishes timelines for review and approval by Commissioner of Education of annual certified audits submitted by approved private schools for students with disabilities

A-4621/S-3156 (Mosquera, Greenwald, Swain/Madden) - Requires issuance of report on certain information and data on processing of applications for professional and occupational licenses and mandates review of training and call intake in Division of Consumer Affairs.

A-4740/S-2970 (Mukherji, DeAngelo, McKnight/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Provides employee access to employee's employment records on file with DOLWD

A-5294/S-1825 (Greenwald, Swain, Rooney/Steinhardt, Sarlo, Doherty) - Exempts sales of investment metal bullion and investment coins from sales and use tax

A-5893/S-4228 (Karabinchak, Calabrese, Sauckie/Gopal, Sarlo) - Extends annual horse racing purse subsidies through State fiscal year 2029