

18A:3B-37

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2008 **CHAPTER:** 10

NJSA: 18A:3B-37 (Requires alternative testing arrangements be provided to certain students unable to attend tests at their regular administration due to religious observance)

BILL NO: S1023 (Substituted for A422)

SPONSOR(S) Weinberg and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: January 28, 2008

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 13, 2008

SENATE: March 3, 2008

DATE OF APPROVAL: April 9, 2008

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Original version of bill enacted)

S1023

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

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE: No

A422

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

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

LAW

P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 10, *approved April 9, 2008*
Senate, No. 1023

1 **AN ACT** concerning administration of certain tests on days of
2 religious observance and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. An institution of higher education shall provide any student
9 who, for reason of a religious observance, cannot attend a test or
10 examination at its regular administration with an alternative
11 opportunity to take an equivalent test or examination. The
12 alternative opportunity shall be offered as soon after or before the
13 regular administration of the test as is possible, and at comparable
14 times, places, and costs. The institution may request that the
15 student provide a written explanation of the religious conflict
16 signed by a clergyman of the student's place of worship.

17
18 2. a. As used in this section:
19 "Standardized test" means any test that is given in the State at
20 the expense of the test subject and designed for use and used in the
21 process of selection for postsecondary or professional school
22 admissions. The tests shall include, but are not limited to, the
23 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test,
24 ACT Assessment, Graduate Record Examination, Medical College
25 Admission Test, Law School Admission Test, Dental Admission
26 Test, Graduate Management Admission Test, Miller Analogies
27 Test, and the Test of Standard Written English.

28 b. When regular administrations of standardized tests are given
29 on days of religious observance which prevent attendance by test
30 subjects at the regular administrations, alternative administrations
31 shall be offered with the same frequency as regular administrations
32 as soon after or before as is possible, at comparable times, places,
33 and cost. The test agency may request that the test subject provide
34 a written explanation of the religious conflict signed by a clergyman
35 of the test subject's place of worship.

36
37 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

38
39 **STATEMENT**

40
41 This bill requires institutions of higher education to provide
42 alternative testing arrangements to students who are unable to

1 attend a test at its regular administration due to religious
2 observance. Similarly, this bill requires providers of standardized
3 tests to provide alternative testing arrangements to test subjects who
4 are unable to attend a standardized test at its regular administration
5 due to religious observance. Under both circumstances, the
6 alternative administration must be offered as soon after or before
7 the regular administration as is possible, and at comparable times,
8 places, and costs. Institutions of higher education and providers of
9 standardized tests may request that the student or test subject
10 provide them with a written explanation of the religious conflict
11 signed by a clergyman of his place of worship.

12 For the purposes of this bill, "standardized tests" include any test
13 that is given in the State at the expense of the test subject and
14 designed for use and used in the process of selection for
15 postsecondary or professional school admissions. Such tests
16 include, but are not limited to, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude
17 Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, ACT Assessment, Graduate Record
18 Examination, Medical College Admission Test, Law School
19 Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Graduate Management
20 Admission Test, Miller Analogies Test, and the Test of Standard
21 Written English.

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26 Requires alternative testing arrangements be provided to certain
27 students unable to attend tests at their regular administration due to
28 religious observance.

SENATE, No. 1023

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Mercer)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Mercer)

Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman DOUGLAS H. FISHER

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Beck, Gordon, Assemblyman Chivukula, Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Greenwald, Conners, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Assemblyman Burzichelli, Assemblywomen Cruz-Perez, Casagrande, Vainieri Huttle, Wagner and Evans

SYNOPSIS

Requires alternative testing arrangements be provided to certain students unable to attend tests at their regular administration due to religious observance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2008)

1 AN ACT concerning administration of certain tests on days of
2 religious observance and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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9 who, for reason of a religious observance, cannot attend a test or
10 examination at its regular administration with an alternative
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12 alternative opportunity shall be offered as soon after or before the
13 regular administration of the test as is possible, and at comparable
14 times, places, and costs. The institution may request that the
15 student provide a written explanation of the religious conflict
16 signed by a clergyman of the student's place of worship.

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18 2. a. As used in this section:

19 "Standardized test" means any test that is given in the State at
20 the expense of the test subject and designed for use and used in the
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23 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test,
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33 and cost. The test agency may request that the test subject provide
34 a written explanation of the religious conflict signed by a clergyman
35 of the test subject's place of worship.

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3 places, and costs. Institutions of higher education and providers of
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12 Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, ACT Assessment, Graduate Record
13 Examination, Medical College Admission Test, Law School
14 Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Graduate Management
15 Admission Test, Miller Analogies Test, and the Test of Standard
16 Written English.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1023

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 2008

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1023.

This bill requires institutions of higher education to provide alternative testing arrangements to students who are unable to attend a test at its regular administration due to religious observance. Similarly, this bill requires providers of standardized tests to provide alternative testing arrangements to test subjects who are unable to attend a standardized test at its regular administration due to religious observance. Under both circumstances, the alternative administration must be offered as soon after or before the regular administration as is possible, and at comparable times, places, and costs. Institutions of higher education and providers of standardized tests may request that the student or test subject provide them with a written explanation of the religious conflict signed by a clergyman of his place of worship.

For the purposes of this bill, "standardized tests" include any test that is given in the State at the expense of the test subject and designed for use and used in the process of selection for postsecondary or professional school admissions. Such tests include, but are not limited to, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, ACT Assessment, Graduate Record Examination, Medical College Admission Test, Law School Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Graduate Management Admission Test, Miller Analogies Test, and the Test of Standard Written English.

ASSEMBLY, No. 422

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Mercer)

Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman DOUGLAS H. FISHER

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Chivukula, Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblyman Johnson,

Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Lampitt,

Assemblymen Greenwald, Connors, Assemblywoman Greenstein,

Assemblyman Burzichelli and Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez

SYNOPSIS

Requires alternative testing arrangements be provided to certain students unable to attend tests at their regular administration due to religious observance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning administration of certain tests on days of
2 religious observance and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A
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14 times, places, and costs. The institution may request that the
15 student provide a written explanation of the religious conflict
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13 Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, ACT Assessment, Graduate Record
14 Examination, Medical College Admission Test, Law School
15 Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Graduate Management
16 Admission Test, Miller Analogies Test, and the Test of Standard
17 Written English.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 422

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 3, 2008

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 422.

This bill requires institutions of higher education to provide alternative testing arrangements to students who are unable to attend a test at its regular administration due to religious observance. Similarly, this bill requires providers of standardized tests to provide alternative testing arrangements to test subjects who are unable to attend a standardized test at its regular administration due to religious observance. Under both circumstances, the alternative administration must be offered as soon after or before the regular administration as is possible, and at comparable times, places, and costs. Institutions of higher education and providers of standardized tests may request that the student or test subject provide them with a written explanation of the religious conflict signed by a clergyman of his place of worship.

For the purposes of this bill, "standardized tests" include any test that is given in the State at the expense of the test subject and designed for use and used in the process of selection for postsecondary or professional school admissions. Such tests include, but are not limited to, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, ACT Assessment, Graduate Record Examination, Medical College Admission Test, Law School Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Graduate Management Admission Test, Miller Analogies Test, and the Test of Standard Written English.