



**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

**ASSEMBLY:** No

**SENATE:** Yes Transportation  
Budget & Appropriations

(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](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**

Yes 12/20/2021

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**

Yes 12/14/2021  
12/23/2021  
1/12/2022

**VETO MESSAGE:**

No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:**

Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:**

No

**HEARINGS:**

No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**

No

RWH/JA



P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 471, *approved January 18, 2022*  
Assembly, No. 5814 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning school bus safety <sup>2</sup>**[and]**,<sup>2</sup> supplementing  
2 chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes <sup>2</sup>, and making  
3 an appropriation<sup>2</sup>.

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

7  
8 1. a. There is established in <sup>2</sup>**[but not of]**<sup>2</sup> the Department of  
9 Education the Office of <sup>2</sup>**[the]**<sup>2</sup> School Bus Safety <sup>2</sup>**[Ombudsman]**.  
10 For the purpose of complying with the provisions of Article V,  
11 Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the Office  
12 of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman is hereby allocated within the  
13 Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the  
14 office shall be independent of any supervision or control by the  
15 department or any board or officer thereof, or any other cabinet-  
16 level department, board, or officer thereof]<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of the  
17 office is to oversee the school busing industry and to coordinate  
18 enforcement and accountability among the department, school bus  
19 drivers, <sup>2</sup>and<sup>2</sup> school bus contractors <sup>2</sup>**[**, and the New Jersey Motor  
20 Vehicle Commission]<sup>2</sup>.

21 b. The <sup>2</sup>**[Governor shall appoint a School Bus Safety**  
22 **Ombudsman, who shall be]** Commissioner of Education shall  
23 establish the office, which shall consist of individuals<sup>2</sup> qualified by  
24 training and experience <sup>1</sup>related to the school bus industry in order<sup>1</sup>  
25 to perform the duties of the office. The <sup>2</sup>**[ombudsman]** staff<sup>2</sup> shall  
26 be <sup>2</sup>supervised by<sup>2</sup> a person of recognized judgment, integrity, and  
27 objectivity, and shall be skilled in communication, conflict  
28 resolution, and professionalism.

29 c. The <sup>2</sup>**[ombudsman]** office<sup>2</sup> shall <sup>2</sup>**[organize and direct the**  
30 **work of the office, including]** be responsible for<sup>2</sup> the work of such  
31 professional and clerical staff as may be necessary to carry out the  
32 <sup>2</sup>**[ombudsman's duties]** the office's responsibilities<sup>2</sup>.

33  
34 2. a. The duties of the <sup>2</sup>Office of<sup>2</sup> School Bus Safety  
35 <sup>2</sup>**[Ombudsman]**<sup>2</sup> shall include, but <sup>2</sup>need<sup>2</sup> not be limited to, the  
36 following:

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted June 14, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted December 20, 2021.

- 1 (1) **2**[review] reviewing<sup>2</sup> a school bus driver's information  
2 collected by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 6  
3 of P.L.1989, c.104 (C.18A:39-19.1);
- 4 (2) **2**[review all] obtaining statements of assurance from school  
5 districts or contractors that all<sup>2</sup> training certifications for school bus  
6 drivers from employers pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of  
7 P.L.2015, c.123 (C.18A:39-19.3) are complete<sup>2</sup>;
- 8 (3) **2**[assist] assisting<sup>2</sup> in the development of a student  
9 information card pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2015, c.123 (18A:39-  
10 19.4);
- 11 (4) **2**[review] reviewing<sup>2</sup> statements provided by a board of  
12 education or contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus  
13 driver's license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a  
14 school bus for the board or contractor pursuant to section 1 of  
15 P.L.2018, c.152 (C.18A:39-19.6);
- 16 (5) **2**[the establishment of a publicly accessibly database that  
17 compiles the violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers,  
18 school bus contractors that employ the school bus drivers, and the  
19 owners, operators, or any officers associated with the school bus  
20 contractor. The ombudsman shall develop and implement an appeal  
21 mechanism to resolve any dispute raised by a school bus driver,  
22 school bus contractor, or owner, operator, or officer associated with  
23 a school bus company concerning inclusion in the database]  
24 coordinating with the Motor Vehicle Commission and the  
25 Department of Law and Public Safety on the sharing of information  
26 regarding matters related to school bus safety. The Motor Vehicle  
27 Commission and the Department of Law and Public Safety shall,  
28 pursuant to a valid Memorandum of Understanding and to the  
29 extent permitted by law, share information with the office to assist  
30 in effectuating the provisions of this act<sup>2</sup>;
- 31 (6) maintain a list of all persons barred from bidding on any  
32 pupil transportation contract pursuant to section 3 of **2**[P.L. , c.  
33 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.  
34 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021)] P.L.2021, c.307 (C.18A:39-  
35 11.5)<sup>2</sup>;
- 36 (7) render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred  
37 from bidding on a pupil transportation contract pursuant to the  
38 provisions of **2**[P.L. ,c. (C. ) (pending before the  
39 Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of  
40 2021)] P.L.2021, c.307 (C.18A:39-11.5)<sup>2</sup>;
- 41 (8) **2**[collect] collecting<sup>2</sup> and **2**[review] reviewing<sup>2</sup> the name,  
42 address, and contact information of school bus contractors and the  
43 owners of school bus contracting companies;
- 44 (9) **2**[determine] determining<sup>2</sup> if a board of education or  
45 contractor has failed to comply with the provisions of  
46 N.J.S.18A:39-20;

1 (10) <sup>2</sup>[review] reviewing<sup>2</sup> and <sup>2</sup>[recommend] recommending<sup>2</sup>  
2 changes to the commissioner of the rules and regulations governing  
3 school bus safety; and

4 (11) any other duties the <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman] commissioner<sup>2</sup> deems  
5 appropriate to ensure the safety of school buses for students in the  
6 State.

7 b. The <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman] office<sup>2</sup> shall treat communications  
8 received in the course of the <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman's] office's<sup>2</sup> duties,  
9 including personally identifiable information regarding students,  
10 parents or guardians, school bus drivers, and others from whom  
11 information is acquired, as confidential, except when disclosure is  
12 necessary to enable the <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman] office<sup>2</sup> to perform the duties  
13 of the office and consent for disclosure is obtained. Upon receipt of  
14 information that by law is confidential or privileged, the  
15 <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman] Department of Education<sup>2</sup> shall maintain the  
16 confidentiality of such information and shall not disclose or  
17 disseminate the information except as provided by applicable State  
18 or federal law.

19 c. As used in this section, "person" means an individual and  
20 any business, including any corporation, partnership, association, or  
21 proprietorship in which such individual is a principal, or with  
22 respect to which the individual owns, directly or indirectly, or  
23 controls any of the stock or other equity interest of such business.  
24

25 3. The <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman] Department of Education<sup>2</sup> shall submit  
26 an <sup>2</sup>[annual] initial<sup>2</sup> report to the Governor <sup>2</sup>[,] and to<sup>2</sup>  
27 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),  
28 <sup>2</sup>[and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission]<sup>2</sup> which includes  
29 a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken  
30 <sup>2</sup>[, by the ombudsman during the school year, and] . A report shall  
31 be issued annually thereafter to the Commissioner of Education by  
32 the Office of School Bus Safety containing<sup>2</sup> any specific  
33 recommendations the <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman] office<sup>2</sup> deems appropriate and  
34 necessary concerning the oversight and management within the  
35 <sup>2</sup>[ombudsman's] department's<sup>2</sup> purview.  
36

37 <sup>2</sup>4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
38 Department of Education \$200,000 to effectuate the provision's of  
39 this act.<sup>2</sup>  
40

41 <sup>2</sup>[4.] 5.<sup>2</sup> This act shall take effect <sup>2</sup>[with the enactment into  
42 law of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
43 Assembly Bill No. 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021)]  
44 immediately<sup>2</sup>.

**A5814 [2R]**

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Creates Office of School Bus Safety in Department of Education;

4

appropriates \$200,000.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5814

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Creates School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, Department of Education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.





1 AN ACT concerning school bus safety and supplementing chapter 39  
2 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. There is established in but not of the Department of  
8 Education the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. For  
9 the purpose of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section  
10 IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the Office of the  
11 School Bus Safety Ombudsman is hereby allocated within the  
12 Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the  
13 office shall be independent of any supervision or control by the  
14 department or any board or officer thereof, or any other cabinet-  
15 level department, board, or officer thereof. The purpose of the  
16 office is to oversee the school busing industry and to coordinate  
17 enforcement and accountability among the department, school bus  
18 drivers, school bus contractors, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
19 Commission.

20 b. The Governor shall appoint a School Bus Safety  
21 Ombudsman, who shall be qualified by training and experience to  
22 perform the duties of the office. The ombudsman shall be a person  
23 of recognized judgment, integrity, and objectivity, and shall be  
24 skilled in communication, conflict resolution, and professionalism.

25 c. The ombudsman shall organize and direct the work of the  
26 office, including the work of such professional and clerical staff as  
27 may be necessary to carry out the ombudsman's duties.

28

29 2. a. The duties of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman shall  
30 include, but not be limited to, the following:

31 (1) review a school bus driver's information collected by the  
32 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1989,  
33 c.104 (C.18A:39-19.1);

34 (2) review all training certifications for school bus drivers from  
35 employers pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2015, c.123  
36 (C.18A:39-19.3);

37 (3) assist in the development of a student information card  
38 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2015, c.123 (18A:39-19.4);

39 (4) review statements provided by a board of education or  
40 contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's  
41 license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for  
42 the board or contractor pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2018, c.152  
43 (C.18A:39-19.6);

44 (5) the establishment of a publicly accessibly database that  
45 compiles the violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers,  
46 school bus contractors that employ the school bus drivers, and the  
47 owners, operators, or any officers associated with the school bus

1 contractor. The ombudsman shall develop and implement an appeal  
2 mechanism to resolve any dispute raised by a school bus driver,  
3 school bus contractor, or owner, operator, or officer associated with  
4 a school bus company concerning inclusion in the database;

5 (6) maintain a list of all persons barred from bidding on any  
6 pupil transportation contract pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c.  
7 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.  
8 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021);

9 (7) render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred  
10 from bidding on a pupil transportation contract pursuant to the  
11 provisions of P.L. ,c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
12 as Assembly Bill No. 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021);

13 (8) collect and review the name, address, and contact  
14 information of school bus contractors and the owners of school bus  
15 contracting companies;

16 (9) determine if a board of education or contractor has failed to  
17 comply with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:39-20;

18 (10) review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the  
19 rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and

20 (11) any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to  
21 ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

22 b. The ombudsman shall treat communications received in the  
23 course of the ombudsman’s duties, including personally identifiable  
24 information regarding students, parents or guardians, school bus  
25 drivers, and others from whom information is acquired, as  
26 confidential, except when disclosure is necessary to enable the  
27 ombudsman to perform the duties of the office and consent for  
28 disclosure is obtained. Upon receipt of information that by law is  
29 confidential or privileged, the ombudsman shall maintain the  
30 confidentiality of such information and shall not disclose or  
31 disseminate the information except as provided by applicable State  
32 or federal law.

33 c. As used in this section, “person” means an individual and  
34 any business, including any corporation, partnership, association, or  
35 proprietorship in which such individual is a principal, or with  
36 respect to which the individual owns, directly or indirectly, or  
37 controls any of the stock or other equity interest of such business.

38  
39 3. The ombudsman shall submit an annual report to the  
40 Governor, the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
41 (C.52:14-19.1), and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission  
42 which includes a summary of the services provided, and  
43 enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school  
44 year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems  
45 appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and  
46 management within the ombudsman’s purview.

1 4. This act shall take effect with the enactment into law of  
2 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly  
3 Bill No. 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021).

4  
5  
6 STATEMENT  
7

8 This bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in,  
9 but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer  
10 all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus  
11 Safety Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor and will  
12 have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

- 13 • review a school bus driver’s information collected by the  
14 Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or  
15 check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations  
16 pursuant to current statute;
- 17 • review all training certifications for school bus drivers from  
18 employers;
- 19 • assist in the development of a student information card;
- 20 • review statements provided by a board of education or  
21 contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver’s  
22 license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school  
23 bus for the board or contractor;
- 24 • the establishment of a publicly accessibly database that  
25 compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus  
26 driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus  
27 driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with  
28 the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and  
29 implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute  
30 raised concerning inclusion in the database;
- 31 • maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil  
32 transportation contracts;
- 33 • render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred  
34 from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;
- 35 • collect and review the name, address, and contact  
36 information of school bus contractors and the owner or  
37 school bus contracting companies;
- 38 • determine if a board of education or contractor has approved  
39 or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;
- 40 • review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the  
41 rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and
- 42 • any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure  
43 the safety of school buses for students in the State.

44 The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report  
45 to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle

**A5814 SWAIN, TULLY**

5

1 Commission which includes a summary of the services provided,  
2 and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the  
3 school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman  
4 deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and  
5 management within the ombudsman's purview.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT  
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 5814**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 14, 2021

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5814.

As amended and reported, this bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor and will have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

- review a school bus driver's information collected by the Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations pursuant to current statute;
- review all training certifications for school bus drivers from employers;
- assist in the development of a student information card;
- review statements provided by a board of education or contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor;
- the establishment of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute raised concerning inclusion in the database;
- maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil transportation contracts;
- render a decision as to whether a person is to be debarred from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;
- collect and review the name, address, and contact information of school bus contractors and the owner or school bus contracting companies;

- determine if a board of education or contractor has approved or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;
- review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and
- any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments add a requirement that the training and experience required for the person to be appointed School Bus Safety Ombudsman be related to the school bus industry.

# ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5814**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 22, 2021

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5814 (1R).

This bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor and will have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

- review a school bus driver's information collected by the Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations pursuant to current statute;
- review all training certifications for school bus drivers from employers;
- assist in the development of a student information card;
- review statements provided by a board of education or contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor;
- the establishment of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute raised concerning inclusion in the database;
- maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil transportation contracts;
- render a decision as to whether a person is to be debarred from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;
- collect and review the name, address, and contact information of school bus contractors and the owner or school bus contracting companies;
- determine if a board of education or contractor has approved or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;
- review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and
- any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information is not available at this time.



# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5814**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 16, 2021

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5814 (1R).

This bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus Safety Ombudsman would be appointed by the Governor and would have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

(1) review a school bus driver's information collected by the Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations pursuant to current statute;

(2) review all training certifications for school bus drivers from employers;

(3) assist in the development of a student information card;

(4) review statements provided by a board of education or contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor;

(5) the establishment of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute raised concerning inclusion in the database;

(6) maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil transportation contracts;

(7) render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;

(8) collect and review the name, address, and contact information of school bus contractors and the owner or school bus contracting companies;

(9) determine if a board of education or contractor has approved or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;

(10) review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and

(11) any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3851 (1R), which was amended and reported by the committee on this date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. Under the bill, the office will be in, but not of, the Department of Education. In addition to hiring the School Bus Safety Ombudsman, there will be costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, costs associated with securing facilities, and ongoing administrative and operational costs of the office. It is not known how many staff members will be needed to adequately perform the duties of the office, nor the salaries of the hired staff. The operational, administrative, and maintenance costs associated with the establishment of a new office are also unknown.

The OLS concludes that there will be indeterminate costs associated with the establishment and ongoing operation of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers, school bus contractors that employ the school bus drivers, and the owners, operators, or any officers associated with the school bus contractor.

STATEMENT TO  
[First Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 5814**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator LAGANA)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 20, 2021

These floor amendments:

(1) change the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman to the Office of School Bus Safety;

(2) designate that the Office of School Bus Safety will be in the Department of Education (DOE). In its original form, the ombudsman position was in, but not of, the DOE;

(3) provide that the office will coordinate with the Motor Vehicle Commission and the Department of Law and Public Safety on the sharing of information regarding matters related to school bus safety. The Motor Vehicle Commission and the Department of Law and Public Safety will, pursuant to a valid Memorandum of Understanding and to the extent permitted by law, share information with the office to assist in effectuating the provisions of the bill;

(4) provide that the DOE will submit an initial report to the Governor and Legislature and that thereafter the office will issue an annual report to the Commissioner of Education; and

(5) make an appropriation of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the DOE to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 5814

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 29, 2021

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Creates School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, Department of Education.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State Expenditure Increase
- Agencies Affected:** Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman; Department of Education

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Expenditure Increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. Under the bill, the office will be in, but not of, the Department of Education. In addition to hiring the School Bus Safety Ombudsman, there will be costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, costs associated with securing facilities, and ongoing administrative and operational costs of the office. It is not known how many staff members will be needed to adequately perform the duties of the office, nor the salaries of the hired staff. The operational, administrative, and maintenance costs associated with the establishment of a new office are also unknown.
- OLS concludes that there will be indeterminate costs associated with the establishment and ongoing operation of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers, school bus contractors that employ the school bus drivers, and the owners, operators, or any officers associated with the school bus contractor.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman in, but not of, the Department of Education, the purpose of which is to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that the bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. Under the bill, the office will be in, but not of, the Department of Education. In addition to hiring the School Bus Safety Ombudsman, there will be costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, costs associated with securing facilities, and ongoing administrative and operational costs of the office. It is not known how many staff members will be needed to adequately perform the duties of the office, nor the salaries of the hired staff. The operational, administrative, and maintenance costs associated with the establishment of a new office, including the establishment and ongoing operation of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines related to school bus safety pursuant to the bill, are also unknown.

*Section: Education*  
*Analyst: Adrian Crook*  
*Lead Research 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.).

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5814**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: JANUARY 12, 2022

### **SUMMARY**

- Synopsis:** Creates Office of School Bus Safety in Department of Education; appropriates \$200,000.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education

#### **Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Annually Thereafter</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Up to \$200,000	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill will lead to an expenditure increase of up to \$200,000 in FY 2022. Annual costs to operate the Office of School Bus Safety in the years thereafter are indeterminate, although the OLS expects that the State will experience similar costs as those experienced in FY 2022.

### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill creates the Office of School Bus Safety in the Department of Education (DOE). The purpose of the office is to oversee the school busing industry and to coordinate enforcement and accountability among the department, school bus drivers, and school bus contractors. The Commissioner of Education would establish the office, which would consist of individuals qualified by training and experience related to the school bus industry. The bill prescribes a variety of responsibilities for the office relating to the review and collection of information about the school busing industry.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DOE to provide for the operation of the Office of School Bus Safety. The bill provides for a \$200,000 supplemental appropriation for FY 2022. State expenditure increases would stem from costs to operate the office, including costs associated with the salary and benefits of employees of the Office of School Bus Safety, facilities and office space, and materials and supplies. The OLS notes that costs may be reduced to the extent that existing staff within the DOE are currently qualified to perform some of the functions prescribed in the bill.

*Section: Education*

*Analyst: Christopher Myles  
Associate 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. 3851

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Corrado**

**SYNOPSIS**

Creates School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, Department of Education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)



1 AN ACT concerning school bus safety and supplementing chapter 39  
2 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. There is established in but not of the Department of  
8 Education the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. For  
9 the purpose of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section  
10 IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the Office of the  
11 School Bus Safety Ombudsman is hereby allocated within the  
12 Department of Education, but notwithstanding this allocation, the  
13 office shall be independent of any supervision or control by the  
14 department or any board or officer thereof, or any other cabinet-  
15 level department, board, or officer thereof. The purpose of the  
16 office is to oversee the school busing industry and to coordinate  
17 enforcement and accountability among the department, school bus  
18 drivers, school bus contractors, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
19 Commission.

20 b. The Governor shall appoint a School Bus Safety  
21 Ombudsman, who shall be qualified by training and experience to  
22 perform the duties of the office. The ombudsman shall be a person  
23 of recognized judgment, integrity, and objectivity, and shall be  
24 skilled in communication, conflict resolution, and professionalism.

25 c. The ombudsman shall organize and direct the work of the  
26 office, including the work of such professional and clerical staff as  
27 may be necessary to carry out the ombudsman's duties.

28

29 2. a. The duties of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman shall  
30 include, but not be limited to, the following:

31 (1) review a school bus driver's information collected by the  
32 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1989,  
33 c.104 (C.18A:39-19.1);

34 (2) review all training certifications for school bus drivers from  
35 employers pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2015, c.123  
36 (C.18A:39-19.3);

37 (3) assist in the development of a student information card  
38 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2015, c.123 (18A:39-19.4);

39 (4) review statements provided by a board of education or  
40 contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's  
41 license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for  
42 the board or contractor pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2018, c.152  
43 (C.18A:39-19.6);

44 (5) the establishment of a publicly accessibly database that  
45 compiles the violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers,  
46 school bus contractors that employ the school bus drivers, and the  
47 owners, operators, or any officers associated with the school bus  
48 contractor. The ombudsman shall develop and implement an appeal  
49 mechanism to resolve any dispute raised by a school bus driver,

1 school bus contractor, or owner, operator, or officer associated with  
2 a school bus company concerning inclusion in the database;

3 (6) maintain a list of all persons barred from bidding on any  
4 pupil transportation contract pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c.  
5 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.  
6 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021);

7 (7) render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred  
8 from bidding on a pupil transportation contract pursuant to the  
9 provisions of P.L. ,c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
10 as Assembly Bill No. 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021);

11 (8) collect and review the name, address, and contact  
12 information of school bus contractors and the owners of school bus  
13 contracting companies;

14 (9) determine if a board of education or contractor has failed to  
15 comply with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:39-20;

16 (10) review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the  
17 rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and

18 (11) any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to  
19 ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

20 b. The ombudsman shall treat communications received in the  
21 course of the ombudsman’s duties, including personally identifiable  
22 information regarding students, parents or guardians, school bus  
23 drivers, and others from whom information is acquired, as  
24 confidential, except when disclosure is necessary to enable the  
25 ombudsman to perform the duties of the office and consent for  
26 disclosure is obtained. Upon receipt of information that by law is  
27 confidential or privileged, the ombudsman shall maintain the  
28 confidentiality of such information and shall not disclose or  
29 disseminate the information except as provided by applicable State  
30 or federal law.

31 c. As used in this section, “person” means an individual and  
32 any business, including any corporation, partnership, association, or  
33 proprietorship in which such individual is a principal, or with  
34 respect to which the individual owns, directly or indirectly, or  
35 controls any of the stock or other equity interest of such business.  
36

37 3. The ombudsman shall submit an annual report to the  
38 Governor, the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
39 (C.52:14-19.1), and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission  
40 which includes a summary of the services provided, and  
41 enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school  
42 year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems  
43 appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and  
44 management within the ombudsman’s purview.  
45

46 4. This act shall take effect with the enactment into law of  
47 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly  
48 Bill No. 5818 or Senate Bill No. 3849 of 2021).

STATEMENT

1  
2  
3 This bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in,  
4 but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer  
5 all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus  
6 Safety Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor and will  
7 have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

- 8 • review a school bus driver's information collected by the  
9 Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or  
10 check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations  
11 pursuant to current statute;
- 12 • review all training certifications for school bus drivers from  
13 employers;
- 14 • assist in the development of a student information card;
- 15 • review statements provided by a board of education or  
16 contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's  
17 license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school  
18 bus for the board or contractor;
- 19 • the establishment of a publicly accessibly database that  
20 compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus  
21 driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus  
22 driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with  
23 the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and  
24 implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute  
25 raised concerning inclusion in the database;
- 26 • maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil  
27 transportation contracts;
- 28 • render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred  
29 from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;
- 30 • collect and review the name, address, and contact  
31 information of school bus contractors and the owner or  
32 school bus contracting companies;
- 33 • determine if a board of education or contractor has approved  
34 or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;
- 35 • review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the  
36 rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and
- 37 • any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure  
38 the safety of school buses for students in the State.

39 The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report  
40 to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
41 Commission which includes a summary of the services provided,  
42 and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the  
43 school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman  
44 deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and  
45 management within the ombudsman's purview.

# SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 3851

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 10, 2021

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3851.

As reported, this bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor and will have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

- review a school bus driver's information collected by the Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations pursuant to current statute;
- review all training certifications for school bus drivers from employers;
- assist in the development of a student information card;
- review statements provided by a board of education or contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor;
- the establishment of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute raised concerning inclusion in the database;
- maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil transportation contracts;
- render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;
- collect and review the name, address, and contact information of school bus contractors and the owner or school bus contracting companies;
- determine if a board of education or contractor has approved or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;
- review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and

- any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3851**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 16, 2021

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3851, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill creates the School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, the Department of Education to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The School Bus Safety Ombudsman would be appointed by the Governor and would have, but not be limited to, the following duties:

(1) review a school bus driver's information collected by the Commissioner of Education for a criminal history check or check for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations pursuant to current statute;

(2) review all training certifications for school bus drivers from employers;

(3) assist in the development of a student information card;

(4) review statements provided by a board of education or contractor that verify a school bus driver, whose bus driver's license is suspended or revoked, no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor;

(5) the establishment of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of a school bus driver, the school bus contractor that employs the school bus driver, and any owner, operator, or officer associated with the school bus contractor. The ombudsman will develop and implement an appeal mechanism to resolve any dispute raised concerning inclusion in the database;

(6) maintaining a list of persons debarred from bidding on pupil transportation contracts;

(7) render a decision as to whether a person shall be debarred from bidding on a pupil transportation contract;

(8) collect and review the name, address, and contact information of school bus contractors and the owner or school bus contracting companies;

(9) determine if a board of education or contractor has approved or assigned an unauthorized bus driver;

(10) review and recommend changes to the commissioner of the rules and regulations governing school bus safety; and

(11) any other duties the ombudsman deems appropriate to ensure the safety of school buses for students in the State.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

As amended, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5814 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments add a requirement that the training and experience required for the person to be appointed School Bus Safety Ombudsman be related to the school bus industry.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. Under the bill, the office will be in, but not of, the Department of Education. In addition to hiring the School Bus Safety Ombudsman, there will be costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, costs associated with securing facilities, and ongoing administrative and operational costs of the office. It is not known how many staff members will be needed to adequately perform the duties of the office, nor the salaries of the hired staff. The operational, administrative, and maintenance costs associated with the establishment of a new office are also unknown.

The OLS concludes that there will be indeterminate costs associated with the establishment and ongoing operation of a publicly accessible database that compiles the violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers, school bus contractors that employ the school bus drivers, and the owners, operators, or any officers associated with the school bus contractor.

STATEMENT TO  
[First Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 3851**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator LAGANA)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 20, 2021

These floor amendments:

(1) change the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman to the Office of School Bus Safety;

(2) designate that the Office of School Bus Safety will be in the Department of Education (DOE). In its original form, the ombudsman position was in, but not of, the DOE;

(3) provide that the office will coordinate with the Motor Vehicle Commission and the Department of Law and Public Safety on the sharing of information regarding matters related to school bus safety. The Motor Vehicle Commission and the Department of Law and Public Safety will, pursuant to a valid Memorandum of Understanding and to the extent permitted by law, share information with the office to assist in effectuating the provisions of the bill;

(4) provide that the DOE will submit an initial report to the Governor and Legislature and that thereafter the office will issue an annual report to the Commissioner of Education; and

(5) make an appropriation of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the DOE to effectuate the purposes of the bill.



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**SENATE, No. 3851**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2021

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Creates School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, Department of Education.

**Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Expenditure Increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the Department of Education (DOE) to provide for the salary and benefits costs of a School Bus Safety Ombudsman and for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. Based on a review of existing public salary information for individuals who appear to be in similar positions as the one established in this bill, it is reasonable to assume that the annual salary costs for the School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be between \$120,000 and \$150,000, plus benefits.
- There may be an indeterminate level of additional costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, although the OLS notes that existing staff within the DOE may be currently qualified to perform several of the functions prescribed in the bill.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill creates the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman in, but not of, the DOE to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The Governor will appoint a School Bus Safety Ombudsman to perform the duties of the office.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and

any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DOE to provide for the salary and benefits costs of a School Bus Safety Ombudsman and for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. The bill stipulates that the office will be established in but not of the DOE. Based on a review of existing public salary information for individuals who appear to be in similar positions as the one established in this bill, it is reasonable to assume that the annual salary costs for the position of School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be between \$120,000 and \$150,000, plus benefits.

There may be an indeterminate level of costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, although the OLS notes that existing staff within the DOE may be currently qualified to perform some of the functions prescribed in the bill that are already required of the Commissioner of Education or the DOE under current statutory law. However, the bill's provisions prescribing new oversight powers to the office may necessitate the hiring of additional staff not already employed by the DOE. The potential number new staff needed to perform these oversight functions, and the salary and benefits costs associated with those new staff, is not known.

Lastly, the OLS finds that the bill will cause an indeterminate increase in State expenditures to provide for the establishment and ongoing maintenance and operation of a publicly accessible database that compiles certain violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers.

*Section: Education*

*Analyst: Christopher Myles  
Associate 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.).

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 3851 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 23, 2021

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Creates School Bus Safety Ombudsman position in, but not of, Department of Education.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Expenditure Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the Department of Education (DOE) to provide for the salary and benefits costs of a School Bus Safety Ombudsman and for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. Based on a review of existing public salary information for individuals who appear to be in similar positions as the one established in this bill, it is reasonable to assume that the annual salary costs for the School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be between \$120,000 and \$150,000, plus benefits.
- There may be an indeterminate level of additional costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, although the OLS notes that existing staff within the DOE may be currently qualified to perform several of the functions prescribed in the bill.

### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman in, but not of, the DOE to monitor and administer all school bus safety and oversight activities. The Governor will appoint a School Bus Safety Ombudsman to perform the duties of the office.

The bill also requires the ombudsman to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission which includes a summary of the

services provided, and enforcement actions taken, by the ombudsman during the school year, and any specific recommendations the ombudsman deems appropriate and necessary concerning the oversight and management within the ombudsman's purview.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DOE to provide for the salary and benefits costs of a School Bus Safety Ombudsman and for the establishment and continued operation of the Office of the School Bus Safety Ombudsman. The bill stipulates that the office will be established in but not of the DOE. Based on a review of existing public salary information for individuals who appear to be in similar positions as the one established in this bill, it is reasonable to assume that the annual salary costs for the position of School Bus Safety Ombudsman will be between \$120,000 and \$150,000, plus benefits.

There may be an indeterminate level of costs associated with hiring staff to perform the duties of the office, although the OLS notes that existing staff within the DOE may be currently qualified to perform some of the functions prescribed in the bill that are already required of the Commissioner of Education or the DOE under current statutory law. However, the bill's provisions prescribing new oversight powers to the office may necessitate the hiring of additional staff not already employed by the DOE. The potential number new staff needed to perform these oversight functions, and the salary and benefits costs associated with those new staff, is not known.

Lastly, the OLS finds that the bill will cause an indeterminate increase in State expenditures to provide for the establishment and ongoing maintenance and operation of a publicly accessible database that compiles certain violations and subsequent fines of school bus drivers.

*Section: Education*

*Analyst: Christopher Myles  
Associate 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.).

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 3851 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 12, 2022

### SUMMARY

**Synopsis:** Creates Office of School Bus Safety in Department of Education; appropriates \$200,000.

**Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Education

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Annually Thereafter</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Up to \$200,000	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill will lead to an expenditure increase of up to \$200,000 in FY 2022. Annual costs to operate the Office of School Bus Safety in the years thereafter are indeterminate, although the OLS expects that the State will experience similar costs as those experienced in FY 2022.

### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates the Office of School Bus Safety in the Department of Education. The purpose of the office is to oversee the school busing industry and to coordinate enforcement and accountability among the department, school bus drivers, and school bus contractors. The Commissioner of Education would establish the office, which would consist of individuals qualified by training and experience related to the school bus industry. The bill prescribes a variety of responsibilities for the office relating to the review and collection of information about the school busing industry.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DOE to provide for the operation of the Office of School Bus Safety. The bill provides for a \$200,000 supplemental appropriation for FY 2022. State expenditure increases would stem from costs to operate the office, including costs associated with the salary and benefits of employees of the Office of School Bus Safety, facilities and office space, and materials and supplies. The OLS notes that costs may be reduced to the extent that existing staff within the DOE are currently qualified to perform some of the functions prescribed in the bill.

*Section: Education*  
*Analyst: Christopher Myles*  
*Associate 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

01/18/2022

**TRENTON** – Governor Murphy today signed the following bills:

**S-384/A-1964 (Weinberg, Singleton/Stanley, Munoz, McKeon, Sumter, Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Wimberly, Mosquera, Downey, Chiaravalloti)** – Expands training for judges, law enforcement officers and assistant county prosecutors concerning handling of domestic violence cases

**S-386/A-1763 (Weinberg, Singleton/Munoz, Vainieri Huttle, Downey, Mosquera, Lampitt, Benson)** - Establishes mandatory domestic violence training for municipal prosecutors

**S-396/A-4903 (Weinberg, Addiego/Johnson, Mukherji)** – Adjusts statute of limitations on damage claim for construction defect in common interest communities

**S-705/A-1077 (Ruiz, Cunningham/Speight, Vainieri Huttle, Downey)** – Requires DOH to develop and implement plan to improve access to perinatal mood and anxiety disorder screening

**SCS for S-844 and 2533/ACS for A-4635 (Pou, Greenstein/Zwicker, Lopez)** – Revises reporting requirements for charitable organizations and non-profit corporations

**S-867/A-2316 (Pou/Jimenez, Giblin, Johnson)** – Permits physical therapists to perform dry needling under certain circumstances

**S-896/A-2396 (Pou, Turner/Wimberly, Timberlake, Murphy)** – Expands Office of Public Defender representation of juveniles; repeals section 4 of P.L.1968, c.371

**S-969WGR/ACS for A-2687 (Ruiz, Turner/Mazzeo, Lampitt, Moen)** – Establishes loan redemption program for certain teachers to redeem loan amounts received under New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students Loan Program through employment in certain schools; makes annual appropriation of \$1 million

**S-994/A-6248 (Sweeney, Singleton/Lopez)** – Requires State agencies and political subdivisions to make good faith effort to purchase five percent of goods and services from Central Nonprofit Agency

**SCS for S-1016/ACS for A-2070 (Smith, Bateman/Calabrese, Mukherji, Benson)** – Restricts use of neonicotinoid pesticides

**S-1020/AS for ACS for A-1184 and 4414 (Ruiz, Gopal/Zwicker, Conaway, Verrelli, Caputo)** – Requires School Report Card to include demographic breakdown of students who receive disciplinary actions; requires Commissioner of Education to establish Statewide database concerning certain disciplinary actions

**S-1559/A-1659 (Scutari, Diegnan/Quijano, Bramnick, Mukherji, Sumter, Downey, Dancer)** – “New Jersey Insurance Fair Conduct Act”

**S-1771/A-1489 (Madden, Turner/Moriarty, Mosquera, Vainieri Huttle)** – Expressly prohibits invasive examination of unconscious patient by health care practitioner without patient’s prior informed written consent

**S-2160wGR/A-5701 (Sweeney, Oroho, Singer/Carter, Lampitt, Jasey)** – Creates special education unit within the Office of Administrative Law; requires annual report

**SCS for S-2515/ACS for A-4676 (Smith, Greenstein/Quijano, Jasey, McKeon)** – Establishes postconsumer recycled content requirements for rigid plastic containers, glass containers, paper and plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags; prohibits sale of polystyrene loose fill packaging

**S-2723/A-2614 (Sweeney, Turner/Murphy, Benson, Timberlake)** – “21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act”

**S-2830/A-5291 (Ruiz, Singleton/Quijano)** – Requires educator preparation program to report passing rates of students who complete certain tests and to disseminate information on test fee waiver programs, and permits collection of student fee for certain testing costs

**S-2835/A-5292 (Ruiz, Cunningham/Quijano, Lampitt, Jasey)** – Requires compilation of data and issuance of annual reports on New Jersey teacher workforce

**S-2921/A-5554 (Gopal, Greenstein/Houghtaling, Downey, Mukherji)** – Allows municipalities to designate outdoor areas upon which people may consume alcoholic beverages

**S-3009/A-4847 (Vitale, Gopal, Gill/Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Verrelli)** – Authorizes expanded provision of harm reduction services to distribute sterile syringes and provide certain support services to persons who use drugs intravenously

**S-3081/A-5219 (Singleton/McKeon, Dunn)** – Repeals law concerning excess rates and charges for title insurance; makes agreement to use services of title or settlement service company subject to attorney review

**S-3164/A-4987 (Gopal, Singleton/Houghtaling, Vainieri Huttle, Giblin)** – Creates NJ Legislative Youth Council

**S-3265/A-5074 (Diegnan, Greenstein/DeAngelo, Dancer, Mukherji)** – Permits members of SPRS to purchase service credit for prior public employment with federal government or another state

**S-3342/A-5463 (Codey, Singleton/Jasey, Giblin, Timberlake)** – Directs NJT to erect statue in honor of A. Philip Randolph; appropriates \$90,000

**S-3465/A-4336 (Oroho, Sweeney/Houghtaling, Space)** – Directs Department of Agriculture to pay annual premiums to enrolled dairy farmers for certain coverage under the federal Dairy Margin Coverage Program; appropriates \$125,000

**S-3488wGR/A-5537 (Sweeney, Gopal, O'Scanlon/Burzichelli, Dancer, Spearman)** – Modifies certain procedures pertaining to school district regionalization; establishes grant program for cost reimbursement of conducting regionalization feasibility studies; and provides financial incentives for regionalization

**S-3493/A-5458 (Vitale, Gill/Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, McKnight)** – Permits expungement of possession or distribution of hypodermic syringe or needle offense in cases of previous expungement; repeals criminal offense of possession of syringe

**S-3539/A5409 (T. Kean, Gopal/Houghtaling)** – Directs DEP to establish grant program for local governments to support development of community gardens

**S-3594/A-5509 (Singleton, Scutari/Zwicker, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli)** – Provides that in personal



injury or wrongful death lawsuits, calculations of lost or impaired earnings capacity not be reduced because of race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, or affectional or sexual orientation

**S-3672/A-6009 (Singleton, Turner, Moen, Johnson, McKnight)** – Permits exemption from civil service examination requirement for entry-level law enforcement officers, sheriff's officers, and State and county correctional police officers; permits hiring or appointment of such officers under certain conditions, and makes appropriation

**S-3673/A-6219 (Gopal, Greenstein/Burzichelli)** – Authorizes limited breweries and craft distilleries to sell at retail and offer for sampling purposes product bottled and stored off-site under certain circumstances

**S-3685/A-5576 (Ruiz, Codey/Jasey, Lampitt, Mukherji)** – Permits teacher and professional staff member who provides special services retired from TPAF to return to employment for up to two years without reenrollment in TPAF if employment commences during 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years

**S-3707/A-5673 (Vitale, Ruiz/Vainieri Huttle, Downey, Zwicker)** – Repeals statute criminalizing sexual penetration while infected with venereal disease or HIV under certain circumstances; requires that in prosecutions for endangering another by creating substantial risk of transmitting infectious disease, name of defendant and other person be kept confidential

**S-3764/A-3369 (Gopal, Weinberg/Johnson, Stanley, Karabinchak)** – Establishes Commission on Asian American Heritage in DOE

**S-3810/ACS for A-5862 (Sweeney, Addiego, Greenstein/Benson, Quijano)** – “Responsible Collective Negotiations Act”

**S-3968/A-5930 (Singleton, Beach/Sumter, Karabinchak)** – Increases purchasing threshold permitting Director of Division of Purchase and Property to delegate authority to agencies; increases bid advertising threshold on certain contracts by same scale

**S-3975/A-5963 (Greenstein, Oroho/Benson, Vainieri Huttle, DeAngelo)** – Establishes requirements to commence screening newborn infants for congenital cytomegalovirus infection; establishes public awareness campaign

**S-4004wGR/A-5950 (Weinberg, Greenstein/Sumter, Benson, Reynolds-Jackson)** – Establishes database of certain appointed positions and elected offices

**S-4020/A-5867 (Gopal, Cunningham/Chiaravalloti, Jasey, Carter)** – Expands bonding authority of New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority to permit financing for general funding needs at New Jersey's institutions of higher education

**S-4021/A-6100 (Gopal, Ruiz/Mukherji, Jasey, Timberlake, Stanley)** – Requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies

**S-4043/A-6005 (Cunningham/Jasey, Greenwald)** – Raises statutory threshold for certain public bidding, permits bidder disqualification due to prior negative experience, adds exemptions to public bidding requirement under "State College Contracts Law," and establishes process for cooperative pricing system

**S-4063/A-6220 (Sweeney/Giblin, Egan)** – Removes New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission from appropriations act provision that limits compensation and health benefits; clarifies PERS and SHBP eligibility for members of commission

**S-4068/ACS for A-6110 and 6185 (Sarlo, Oroho/Benson, Mukherji, Bramnick)** – Revises elective pass-through entity business alternative income tax

**S-4074wGR/A-6000 (Ruiz, Beach/Verrelli, Lampitt, Carter)** – Allows alternative evaluation in place of basic skills testing requirements for certain teacher certification

**SCS for S-4102/A-6230 (Sweeney, Ruiz/Benson, Mejia, Zwicker)** – Establishes Direct Support Professional Career Development Program; appropriates \$1,000,000

**S-4128/A-6231 (Sweeney, Pou/Houghtaling, Conaway, Dancer)** – Requires that only fruits and vegetables grown and packaged in NJ may be labeled by food retailers as local to State

**S-4207/A-6119 (Sweeney, Beach/Mukherji, Egan, Pintor Marin)** – Concerns apprenticeship programs of public works contractors

**S-4210/A-6062 (Sweeney, Greenstein/Greenwald, McKnight, Mukherji)** – Requires EDA to establish loan program to assist certain businesses with funding to provide reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities

**S-4211/A-6228 (Sweeney, Corrado/Benson, Speight, Zwicker)** – Establishes county college-based adult centers for transition for individuals with developmental disabilities; makes annual appropriation of \$4.5 million

**S-4218/A-6256 (Scutari/Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Mukherji)** – Appropriates \$2 million to CRDA to support costs associated with hosting NAACP National Convention in Atlantic City

**S-4233/A-6229 (Scutari, Gopal/Mukherji, Jimenez)** – Limits fees charged to patients and authorized third parties for copies of medical and billing records

**S-4252/A-6182 (Madden/Murphy, Chaparro)** – Limits extension of mandatory retirement to 90 days from State Police Retirement System during emergencies

**A-259/S-2224 (DeAngelo, Mukherji, Benson/Gopal, Pennacchio)** – Provides civil service preference to military service members who did not serve in theater of operation but received campaign or expedition medal

**A-798/S-52 (Verrelli, Vainieri Huttel, Armato/Singer, Greenstein)** – Establishes local drug overdose fatality review teams

**A-802/S-1352 (Verrelli, Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy/Turner, Pou)** – Requires certain retailers to train employees on gift card fraud

**A-862wGR/S-962 (Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak/Pennacchio, Pou)** – Permits municipalities to refund excess property taxes paid by a taxpayer who wins an assessment appeal as a property tax credit

**A-953/S-4031 (Karabinchak, Houghtaling/Pou)** – Requires architects disclose insurance coverage

**ACS for A-998 and 2349/S-4312 (Moen, Downey, Houghtaling, Benson, Vainieri Huttel/Ruiz, Beach, Singleton)** – The “New Jersey Social Innovation Act”; establishes social innovation loan pilot program and study commission within EDA

**A-1121/S-1871 (Murphy, Dancer, Stanley/Lagana, Pennacchio)** – Upgrades certain crimes of misrepresenting oneself as member or veteran of US Armed Forces or organized militia

**A-1219wGR/S-1054 (Chaparro, McKnight/Stack)** – Requires owner notification of rabies testing protocol prior to testing of owner’s animal for rabies

**A-1229wGR/S-2161 (Schaer, Mosquera, Tucker, Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Wimberly, Pintor Marin, Jasey/Turner, Singleton)** – Requires DCA to make information on homeless prevention programs and services available on its Internet website

**A-1293/S-3977 (Greenwald, Burzichelli, Mukherji/Greenstein, Gopal)** – Establishes advisory council for the brewery, cidery, meadery, and distillery industries in NJ and provides for funding through certain alcoholic beverage tax receipts

**A-1663/S-1842 (Quijano, Vainieri Huttle, Karabinchak/Cryan, Scutari)** – Establishes “New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Program”

**A-2186/S-1599 (Mukherji, Chaparro, McKnight/Codey, Pou)** – Establishes Statewide database of beds in shelters for the homeless

**A-2360/S-3285 (Chaparro, Karabinchak, Johnson/Greenstein, Stack)** – Requires electric public utility to charge residential rate for service used by residential customer for electric vehicle charging at charging stations within certain designated parking spaces

**A-2685wGR/S-4209 (Armato, Mazzeo, Mukherji/Stack)** – Concerns information on property condition disclosure statement

**A-2772/S-1040 (Downey, Houghtaling, Benson/Gopal)** – Authorizes certain Medicaid recipients residing on post-secondary school campus to participate remotely in meetings of non-medical nature regarding Medicaid benefits

**A-2877/S-1149 (Dancer, Vainieri Huttle, Reynolds-Jackson/Ruiz)** – Requires registration of certain vacant and abandoned properties with municipalities and provides enforcement tools related to maintenance of these properties

**A-3007/S-3127 (Lampitt, Dunn, Benson/Lagana, Gopal)** – Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with access to mental health care programs and services and to establish a hotline to provide information concerning the availability of those services

**A-3392/S-1219 (Reynolds-Jackson, Timberlake, Jasey/Turner, Beach)** – Requires student representative be appointed to each board of education of school district and board of trustees of charter school that includes grades nine through 12

**A-3804/S-1590 (Armato, Murphy, S. Kean/Beach, A.M. Bucco)** – Designates 9-1-1 operators or dispatchers as 9-1-1 first responder dispatchers

**A-3870/S-2807 (Karabinchak, Johnson, Mukherji/Greenstein, Pou)** – “Defense Against Porch Pirates Act”; amends theft statute

**A-3950wGR/S-3180 (Verrelli, Benson, Zwicker/Greenstein, Turner)** – Prohibits employer use of tracking device in vehicle operated by employee under certain circumstances

**A-4002wGR/S-2257 (Caputo, Dancer, Murphy/Gopal, Sarlo)** – Allows deduction of promotional gaming credit from gross revenue on sports wagering

**A-4232/S-4231 (Houghtaling, Dancer, Wirths/Oroho, Smith)** – Creates program in Department of Agriculture for deer fencing on certain farmland

**A-4238/S-2561 (Chiaravalloti, Schaer, Benson/Gopal, Singer)** – Establishes minimum Medicaid reimbursement rate for adult medical day care services

**A-4241/S-2894 (Downey, Vainieri Huttle, Murphy/Pou)** – Requires DHS to conduct biennial survey of SNAP experience

**ACS for A-4253/S-3233 (Conaway, Pinkin, Jimenez/Cryan)** – Requires certain electronic medical programs to include demographic data entry feature; requires laboratories to record certain patients' demographic information; requires certain hospitals and laboratories to implement cultural competency training program

**A-4366/S-2801 (Taliaferro, Sumter, Mukherji/Pou, Greenstein)** – Requires Police Training Commission to contract with crisis intervention training center to provide mental health training to police officers and establish curriculum specific to persons experiencing economic crisis or substance use disorder

**A-4434wGR/S-2716 (Greenwald, Lampitt, Mukherji/Beach, Ruiz)** – Establishes Student Wellness Grant Program in DOE

**A-4478/S2759 (Vainieri Huttle, Speight, Schepisi, DeCroce/Vitale, Madden)** – Establishes additional requirements for DOH to assess sanctions and impose penalties on nursing homes; revises reporting requirements for nursing homes

**A-4569/S-3535 (Reynolds-Jackson, Benson, Karabinchak/Turner)** – Requires BPU, electric power suppliers, and gas suppliers to publish certain information related to filing of customer complaints

**ACS for A-4655/S-3595 (Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Carter/Turner)** – Limits police presence at polling places and ballot drop boxes; prohibits electioneering within 100 feet of ballot drop box

**A-4771/S-2951 (Downey, Armato, Mukherji/Gopal, Singleton)** – Expands offenses eligible for expungement upon successful discharge from drug court

**A-4856/S-3094 (Lampitt, Benson, Caputo/Ruiz, Beach)** – Requires Internet websites and web services of school districts, charter schools, renaissance schools, and the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf to be accessible to persons with disabilities

**A-5033wGR/S-3279 (Benson, Dancer, Verrelli/Gopal)** – Authorizes motor vehicle dealers to sell motor vehicles online and obtain electronic signatures for motor vehicle transactions

**ACS for A-5075wGR/S-4001 (Burzichelli, Dancer, Johnson/Sweeney, A.M. Bucco)** – Removes Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters Memorial from auspices of DEP and establishes museum as independent organization; makes \$200,000 supplemental appropriation

**A-5160/S-3324 (DeAngelo, Conaway, Zwicker/Smith, Bateman)** – Establishes minimum energy and water efficiency standards for certain products sold, offered for sale, or leased in the State

**A-5294/S-3418 (Speight, Vainieri Huttle, Verrelli/Gopal, Madden)** – Provides fast track hiring and advancement employment opportunities by State for persons with significant disabilities

**A-5296/S-3426 (Speight, Vainieri Huttle, McKnight/T. Kean, Schepisi)** – Provides for employment by State of certain persons with disabilities

**A-5322/S-3433 (Mosquera, Vainieri Huttle, DePhillips/Cruz-Perez, T. Kean)** – Provides for process to vacate and expunge certain arrests, charges, complaints, convictions, other dispositions, and DNA

records, associated with violations by certain human trafficking victims

**A-5336wGR/S-3441 (Benson, Freiman, Vainieri Huttie/Diegnan, Madden)** – Requires DHS to establish payment programs for purchase of transportation services from private sector and government transportation service providers

**A-5439/S-3760 (Caputo, Dancer, Murphy/Gopal, Beach)** – Changes deadline for New Jersey Racing Commission's annual report from end of calendar year to end of State fiscal year

**A-5694/S-3783 (Houghtaling, Downey, Dancer/Gopal, Madden)** – Permits dependents of military member to enroll in school district in advance of military member's relocation to district

**A-5814/S-3851 (Swain, Tully, Benson/Lagana, Diegnan)** – Creates Office of School Bus Safety in Department of Education; appropriates \$200,000

**A-5864wGR/S-3939 (Speight, Pintor Marin, Chaparro, McKnight, DeAngelo, Bergen/Gopal, Cryan)** – Allows law enforcement officers to review body worn camera recordings prior to creating initial report

**A-5997/S-4084 (Coughlin, Lopez/Sweeney, O'Scanlon)** – Removes requirement for Legislature, DOE, free public libraries, and historical societies to purchase "Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey"

**A-6012/S-4076 (Moen, Murphy, Freiman/Sarlo, Gopal)** – Appropriates \$500,000 for USS New Jersey Commissioning Committee to support commissioning of boat and assigned personnel

**A-6020/S-4114 (Conaway, Jimenez, Vainieri Huttie/Codey)** – Establishes requirements for certain tobacco product retailers to stock and sell nicotine replacement therapy products

**A-6060/S-4272 (Tucker, Caputo, Mukherji/Cunningham)** – Makes supplemental appropriation of \$8 million to DHS to increase reimbursement for funeral, burial, and crematory services provided to certain beneficiaries of Work First New Jersey and Supplemental Security Income programs

**A-6073/S-4140 (Verrelli/Vitale)** – Temporarily waives certain basic life support services crewmember requirements

**A-6093/S-4201 (Stanley, Benson, Timberlake/Greenstein, Gopal)** – Mandates periodic cancer screening examinations for firefighters enrolled in SHBP

**A-6108wGR/S-4247 (DeAngelo, Egan, Houghtaling/Madden)** – Updates licenses offered by and certain licensure requirements from Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors

**A-6132/S-4235 (Schaer, Greenwald, Conaway/Singer, Gopal)** – Permits volunteer paramedics to operate within mobile intensive care units

**A-6133/S-4251 (Bramnick, Mukherji, Downey/Scutari)** – Allows certain persons not yet appointed as administrator of estate to pursue lawsuit for damages for wrongful death on behalf of deceased's survivors

**A-6150/S-4119 (DeAngelo, Karabinchak, Wirths/Oroho, Pou)** – Revises penalties for transfer of certain professional and occupational licenses

**A-6159/S-4236 (Coughlin, McKnight/Vitale, Ruiz)** – Revises and renames Office of Food Insecurity Advocate

**A-6162/S-4246 (Benson, Stanley/Gopal)** – Requires certain motor vehicle dealers to maintain certain

requirements for business premises

**A-6205/S-4270 (Coughlin, McKeon/Pou)** – Amends certain requirements concerning insurance holding companies

**A-6206wGR/S-4260 (Wimberly/Diegnan, Oroho)** – Codifies right of real estate broker-salespersons and salespersons to define relationship with broker as one between broker and independent contractor or employee and enforces current and previous written agreements addressing relationship

**A-6207/S-4222 (Greenwald, Lampitt, Benson/Sweeney)** – Eliminates requirement for DOE to set certain tuition rates for approved private schools for students with disabilities in certain cases

**A-6208/S-4151 (Mosquera, DeAngelo, Armato/Greenstein, Cruz-Perez)** – Appropriates \$60,940,361 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

**A-6209/S-4154 (Freiman, Spearman, Egan/Turner, Oroho)** – Appropriates \$18 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for county planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes

**A-6210/S-4150 (Taliaferro, Moriarty, Burzichelli/Cruz-Perez, Greenstein)** – Appropriates \$4.5 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for municipal planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes

**A-6211/S-4149 (Houghtaling, Reynolds-Jackson, Downey/Cruz-Perez, Greenstein)** – Appropriates \$440,240 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for grants to certain nonprofit organizations for farmland preservation purposes

**A-6212/S-4148 (Jimenez, Swain, Timberlake/Codey, Corrado)** – Appropriates \$54.5 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects

**A-6213/S-4155 (Kennedy, Carter, Tully/Bateman, Smith)** – Appropriates \$49.932 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-6214/S-4153 (Danielsen, Zwicker, Conaway/Greenstein, Smith)** – Appropriates \$80,539,578 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition and park development projects

**A-6215/S-4152 (Stanley, Murphy, Jasey/Smith, Greenstein)** – Appropriates \$14,687,510 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes

**A-6246/S-4295 (Karabinchak/Sweeney)** – Concerns changes in control of hotels and disruptions of hotel services

**A-6257/S-4311 (McKnight/Sweeney, Singleton)** – Imposes surcharge on casino hotel occupancies to fund public safety services

**A-6262/S-4314 (Burzichelli, Reynolds-Jackson, Mukherji/Sweeney, Oroho, T. Kean)** – Permits PERS retiree to return to employment in NJ Legislature after retirement under certain circumstances

**A-6263/S-4315 (Burzichelli, Reynolds-Jackson, Mukherji/Sweeney, Oroho, T. Kean)** – Appropriates \$2 million to Legislative Services Commission

**Governor Murphy pocket vetoed the following bills:**

**S-73/A-4580 (Bateman, Sarlo/Zwicker, Thomson, McKnight)** – Establishes requirements for sale of cottage food products

**S-995/A-6172 (Sweeney, A.M. Bucco/Downey, McKnight)** – Requires DOLWD and DHS to conduct assessment of community rehabilitation programs and community businesses

**S-1934/A-1158 (Sweeney, Pou, Cryan/Freiman, Lopez, Murphy)** – Authorizes use of disability benefits for transportation provided by transportation network companies

**S-2679/A-1979 (Beach, Smith/Stanley, Lopez, Kennedy)** – Requires paint producers to implement or participate in paint stewardship program

**S-2768/A-4664 (Singleton, Ruiz/Reynolds-Jackson, Stanley, Sumter)** – Authorizes State Chief Diversity Officer to conduct disparity study concerning utilization of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in State procurement process

**S-3458/A-6245 (Lagana, Gopal/Coughlin, Jimenez, Mukherji)** – Revises out-of-network arbitration process

**S-3529/A-5442 (Addiego, Diegnan/DeAngelo, Dancer, Dunn)** – Clarifies that member of SPRS may receive accidental disability benefit under certain circumstances

**S-3715/A-5804 (Cryan/Quijano, Mukherji)** – Modifies certain definitions related to transient accommodation taxes and fees

**S-4189/A-6112 (Vitale, Cruz-Perez/Lopez)** – Permits PERS retiree to return to elective public office after retirement under certain circumstances

**A-1073/S-3432 (Speight, Pintor Marin, McKnight, Timberlake/Ruiz, O'Scanlon)** – Establishes requirements to screen certain people who are pregnant and who have given birth for preeclampsia

**A-1269/S-3490 (Greenwald, Giblin, Calabrese/Cruz-Perez, Beach)** – Eliminates one percent tax on purchasers of Class 4A commercial property transferred for consideration in excess of \$1 million

**A-4958/S-3740 (Tully, Armato, Zwicker/Lagana, Oroho)** – Provides temporary exemption under sales and use tax for winterizing certain small business operations

**A-5334/S-3442 (Lopez, Mazzeo, Stanley/Diegnan, T. Kean)** – Requires DOT, NJT, and DHS to study and implement transportation mobility and accessibility improvements for persons with autism and developmental disabilities

**A-5484/S-3817 (Dancer, Caputo, Houghtaling/Lagana)** – Requires New Jersey Racing Commission to adopt procedures to enforce internal controls; requires annual audit

**A-6033/S-4194 (Bramnick/Sweeney, T. Kean)** – Classifies golf caddies as independent contractors for purposes of State employment laws

**A-6157/S-4202 (Speight, Moen/Ruiz, Beach)** – Prohibits circumventing intergovernmental transfer process for law enforcement officers in certain circumstances

