

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: Yes (Conditional)

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: Yes

Committee meeting of Senate Education Committee [and] Assembly Education Committee : the Committees will receive testimony from invited guests on issues related to school security [April 5, 2018, Trenton, New Jersey] / meeting recorded and transcribed by the Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office, Hearing Unit.
Call number: 974.90 S372, 2018a
Online at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10929/47564>

Committee meeting of Senate Education Committee [and] Assembly Education Committee : the Committees will take public testimony on school security [April 9, 2018, Cherry Hill, New Jersey] / meeting recorded and transcribed by the Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office, Hearing Unit.
Call number: 974.90 S372, 2018b
Online at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10929/47565>

Committee meeting of Senate Education Committee [and] Assembly Education Committee : the Committees will receive testimony from invited guests on issues related to school security [April 23, 2018, Newark, New Jersey] / meeting recorded and transcribed by the Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office, Hearing Unit.
Call number: 974.90 S372, 2018d
Online at <http://hdl.handle.net/10929/47601>

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

N.J. public schools to get silent panic alarms, The Times (Trenton, NJ) - February 1, 2019
N.J. public schools to get panic alarms, Hunterdon County Democrat (Flemington, NJ) - February 3, 2019
N.J. public schools to get panic alarms, The Star-Ledger (Newark, NJ) - February 1, 2019
State OKs 'panic' buttons for schools, The Jersey Journal (Jersey City, NJ) - February 1, 2019
Murphy signs bill requiring panic alarms in schools into law, Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - February 6, 2019
Gov. Phil Murphy signs Alyssa's Law, named for NJ teen killed in Florida school shooting, northjersey.com (Published as northjersey.com (NJ)) - February 6, 2019
MURPHY SIGNS ALYSSA'S LAW, NAMED FOR PARKLAND VICTIM, The Record (Hackensack, NJ) - February 7, 2019
Murphy signs bill requiring panic alarms in schools into law, Burlington County Times (Willingboro, NJ) - February 7, 2019
NJ public schools will soon have panic alarms, The Jersey Journal (Jersey City, NJ) - February 7, 2019
Student safety law honors Parkland victim Silent panic alarms to be installed in every public school in the state, The Times (Trenton, NJ) - February 7, 2019
MURPHY SIGNS ALYSSA'S LAW, NAMED FOR PARKLAND VICTIM, The Record, (Hackensack, NJ), February 7, 2019

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 33, *approved February 6, 2019*
Assembly, No. 764 (*Fourth Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning school security alarms and supplementing
2 chapter 41 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 ¹1. This act shall be known and may be cited as “Alyssa’s
8 Law.”¹

9
10 ¹**[1.]** 2.¹ a. As used in this section:

11 ³**[**“Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the
12 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or near
13 the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is not
14 clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that public
15 roadway.**]**³

16 “Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by
17 the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening
18 or emergency situation requiring a response from law enforcement.

19 b. ³**[Each]** Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection
20 e. of this section, each³ public elementary and secondary school
21 building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a
22 school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire
23 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The alarm shall be
24 directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the case of a
25 school building located in a municipality in which there is no
26 municipal police department, a location designated by the
27 Superintendent of State Police, and shall immediately transmit a signal
28 or message to such authorities upon activation. The alarm shall not be
29 audible within the school building.

30 c. ³**[Each]** public elementary and secondary school building shall
31 be equipped with an emergency light that is linked to the school’s
32 panic alarm and which turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 12, 2018.

²Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 14, 2018.

³Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 11, 2018.

⁴Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations August 27, 2018.

1 ²d.]³ Each panic alarm ³[and emergency light system]³
2 required under this section shall adhere to nationally recognized
3 industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire
4 Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories.

5 ³[e.] d.³ Each panic alarm ³[and emergency light system]³
6 required under this section shall be installed solely by a person
7 licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the
8 provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).²

9 ³e. A school district may equip its elementary and secondary
10 school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative
11 to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the Department of
12 Education.³

13
14 ¹[2.] 3.¹ ⁴[Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a.
15 of section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) to the contrary, the
16 proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of
17 the costs of SDA district school facilities projects or the State share
18 of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts,
19 including county vocational school districts,] A portion of the
20 proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund school security,
21 upon voter approval of P.L.2018, c.119,⁴ shall be used to fund the
22 full cost of the panic alarms ³[and emergency lights]³ required in
23 public elementary and secondary school buildings in any district
24 pursuant to section ³[1] ² of this act ³or alternative emergency
25 mechanisms approved by the department pursuant to that section.
26 A school district that, prior to the effective date of this act, installed
27 a panic alarm or alternative emergency mechanism approved by the
28 department may receive reimbursement for those costs³.

29
30 4. ⁴The New Jersey Schools Development Authority shall
31 adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
32 Law, rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative
33 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to establish a
34 program to effectuate the purposes of this act, which regulations
35 shall be effective for a period not to exceed six months and may
36 thereafter be amended, adopted or readopted by the Schools
37 Development Authority in accordance with the requirements of
38 P.L.1968, c.410.⁴

39
40 ¹[3.] ⁴[4.] 5.⁴ This act shall take effect on the first day of
41 the tenth month ⁴[after enactment] following voter approval of
42 P.L.2018, c.119⁴.

43
44
45
46
47
48

“Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped
with panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Benson, Johnson, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Eustace, Burzichelli, DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblymen Schaer, Chiaravalloti and Assemblywoman Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Requires school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning school security alarms and supplementing
2 chapter 41 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. As used in this section:

8 “Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the
9 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or
10 near the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is
11 not clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that
12 public roadway.

13 “Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by
14 the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-
15 threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law
16 enforcement.

17 b. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall
18 be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school
19 security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire
20 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The alarm shall
21 be directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the
22 case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is
23 no municipal police department, a location designated by the
24 Superintendent of State Police, and shall immediately transmit a
25 signal or message to such authorities upon activation. The alarm
26 shall not be audible within the school building.

27 c. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall
28 be equipped with an emergency light that is linked to the school’s
29 panic alarm and which turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

30

31 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of section 14
32 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) to the contrary, the proceeds of
33 bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of
34 SDA district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs
35 of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county
36 vocational school districts, shall be used to fund the full cost of the
37 panic alarms and emergency lights required in public elementary
38 and secondary school buildings in any district pursuant to section 1
39 of this act.

40

41 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth month
42 after enactment.

43

44

45

STATEMENT

46

47 This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools
48 be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency

1 including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or
2 active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will not be audible
3 within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement
4 authorities and must immediately transmit a signal or message to the
5 authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent
6 security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device
7 intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that
8 requires a response from law enforcement.

9 The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary
10 schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the
11 exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or
12 near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if
13 the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway, then
14 on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be linked
15 to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic alarm is
16 activated.

17 The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued
18 to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority
19 district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of
20 school facilities projects in all other districts, including county
21 vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic
22 alarms and emergency lights.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 5, 2018

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably. Assembly Bill No. 764 (1R).

The bill, entitled “Alyssa’s Law,” requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will not be audible within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement authorities and must immediately transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway, then on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be linked to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

This bill, “Alyssa’s Law,” is named in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, a 14-year old student, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Until a few years ago, Alyssa and her family were residents of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. It is the committee’s hope that the school security measures required under this bill will help to prevent future school tragedies and the senseless loss of life that has accompanied these tragedies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the Schools Development Authority (SDA) uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings. Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems. After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 12, 2018

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 764 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill, entitled “Alyssa’s Law,” requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will not be audible within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement authorities and must immediately transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway, then on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be linked to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

This bill, “Alyssa’s Law,” is named in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, a 14-year old student, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Until a few years ago, Alyssa and her family were residents of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. It is the committee’s hope that the school security measures required under this bill will help to prevent future school tragedies and the senseless loss of life that has accompanied these tragedies.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2018-2019 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to name it in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, a former New Jersey resident, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint] **ASSEMBLY, No. 764**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 11, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 764 (2R), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill, entitled “Alyssa’s Law,” in honor of Alyssa Alhadef, a 14-year old student and former resident of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which is to be inaudible within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement authorities and immediately transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

The bill provides that the panic alarm must adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories. In addition, the panic alarm must be installed solely by a person licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).

However, a school district may equip its elementary and secondary school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the Department of Education.

The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms or an alternative emergency mechanisms approved by the department. If a school district installed a panic alarm or approved

alternative emergency mechanism prior to the effective date of the bill, then the school district may be reimbursed for those costs.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 365 (1R), as also amended and reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

(1) eliminate the requirement that elementary and secondary school buildings be equipped with an emergency light system;

(2) permit a school district to equip its school buildings with an alternative to a panic alarm if the alternative mechanism is approved by the Department of Education;

(3) provide that if a panic alarm or approved alternative mechanism has been installed prior to the bill's effective date, the district may receive reimbursement for the associated costs; and

(4) revise an internal cross-reference.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill would reallocate bond proceeds that the Schools Development Authority (SDA) uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms or approved alternative mechanisms in school buildings. Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems. After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2018

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 764 (1R) with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill, entitled “Alyssa’s Law,” requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will not be audible within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement authorities and must immediately transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway, then on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be linked to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

This bill, “Alyssa’s Law,” is named in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, a 14-year old student, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Until a few years ago, Alyssa and her family were residents of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. It is the committee’s hope that the school security measures required under this bill will help to prevent future school

tragedies and the senseless loss of life that has accompanied these tragedies.

The committee amended the bill to provide that the panic alarm and emergency light systems required under the bill must adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories. In addition, the amendments require that the panic alarm and emergency light systems be installed solely by a person licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 365 with Senate committee amendments, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 6, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** “Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.
- Type of Impact:** Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds.
Potential Recurring Expenditure Increase to School Districts.
- Agencies Affected:** Schools Development Authority; Department of Education; School Districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds	\$2,500,000 to \$12,500,000		
Local Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the Schools Development Authority (SDA) uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings.
- Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.
- After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools in the State be equipped with at least one panic alarm that is directly linked to local law enforcement (or State Police, if

the municipality does not operate its own police department) for use in an emergency situation. The panic alarm must be silent within the school building, and must also activate an emergency light located on the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location.

Proceeds of bonds issued by the Economic Development Authority (EDA) on behalf of the SDA under the “Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act” would be used to finance the installation of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the SDA uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings.

The OLS determines the bill’s effect to be a reallocation of existing and future bond proceeds because State law provides for a ceiling on the par amount of bonds that the EDA may issue on behalf of the SDA to finance school facilities construction. The SDA is approaching the limits of its statutory bonding capacity and has encumbered almost all available funds. If the authority wished to increase its bonding capacity it may not be able to return to capital markets to raise the additional funds without prior voter approval. For that reason, the OLS determines the legislation’s impact to be a reallocation of existing resources.

The cost of installing a panic alarm in a school appears to vary considerably, ranging from \$1,000 per school to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Some schools may already be in compliance with the bill’s requirement, however, which would lower the initial cost of the bill. Once the initial systems are installed, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.

School districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs after the equipment is installed.

Section: Education
Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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. 764

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 6, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** “Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.
- Type of Impact:** Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds.
Potential Recurring Expenditure Increase to School Districts.
- Agencies Affected:** Schools Development Authority; Department of Education; School Districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds	\$2,500,000 to \$12,500,000		
Local Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the Schools Development Authority (SDA) uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings.
- Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.
- After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools in the State be equipped with at least one panic alarm that is directly linked to local law enforcement (or State Police, if the municipality does not operate its own police department) for use in an emergency situation. The panic alarm must be silent within the school building, and must also activate an emergency light located on the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location.

Proceeds of bonds issued by the Economic Development Authority (EDA) on behalf of the SDA under the “Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act” would be used to finance the installation of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the SDA uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings.

The OLS determines the bill’s effect to be a reallocation of existing and future bond proceeds because State law provides for a ceiling on the par amount of bonds that the EDA may issue on behalf of the SDA to finance school facilities construction. The SDA is approaching the limits of its statutory bonding capacity and has encumbered almost all available funds. If the authority wished to increase its bonding capacity it may not be able to return to capital markets to raise the additional funds without prior voter approval. For that reason, the OLS determines the legislation’s impact to be a reallocation of existing resources.

The cost of installing a panic alarm in a school appears to vary considerably, ranging from \$1,000 per school to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Some schools may already be in compliance with the bill’s requirement, however, which would lower the initial cost of the bill. Once the initial systems are installed, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.

School districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs after the equipment is installed.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

FE to A764 [2R]

3

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Fourth Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 20, 2018

SUMMARY

Synopsis: “Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped with panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

Type of Impact: Expenditure and Revenue Increase to School Districts.

Agencies Affected: School Districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds	\$2,500,000 to \$12,500,000		
Local Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that the bill provides that a portion of the proceeds of the bond funds authorized for school security projects under the “Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act,” P.L.2018, c.119, will be used for the installation of panic alarms. The bond funds will provide school districts with a source of revenue to finance the installation of the panic alarms.
- Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.
- Under the bill, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to implement the bill’s provisions. The actual cost of the installation of the alarms will be dependent upon the alarm specifications adopted by SDA.
- After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools in the State be equipped with at least one panic alarm that is directly linked to local law enforcement (or State Police, if the municipality does not operate its own police department) for use in an emergency situation. The panic alarm must be silent within the school building. A school district may equip its school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the Department of Education. A school district that, prior to the bill's effective date, installed a panic alarm or alternative emergency mechanism approved by the department may receive reimbursement for those costs.

The bill provides that a portion of the proceeds of the bonds authorized to be issued under the "Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act," P.L.2018, c.119, will be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms.

The bill directs the SDA to adopt rules and regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill will lead to increased revenue for school districts, as the costs of installing the panic alarms will be covered by the general obligation bond proceeds to be issued under the "Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act," P.L.2018, c.119, that was approved by the voters on November 6, 2018. The bill will also lead to increased expenditures for school districts over time for costs associated with the replacement of defective and outdated systems, and ongoing testing and maintenance costs after the equipment is installed.

The cost of installing a panic alarm in a school appears to vary considerably, ranging from \$1,000 per school to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. It should be noted that the New Jersey Schools Development Authority is authorized under the bill to promulgate rules and regulations to implement its provisions. Consequently the actual cost of the purchase and installation of the alarms will be dependent upon the alarm specifications established by SDA.

The financing of the cost of the purchase and installation of the panic alarms through the proceeds of bonds issued under the "Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act," P.L.2018, c.119, will represent a revenue increase for school districts. However, once the initial systems are installed, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems, which would represent an expenditure increase for the districts. School districts may also incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs after the equipment is installed.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Kathleen Fazzari
Section Chief*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

SENATE, No. 365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Diegnan and Stack

SYNOPSIS

Requires school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning school security alarms and supplementing
2 chapter 41 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. As used in this section:

8 “Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the
9 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or
10 near the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is
11 not clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that
12 public roadway.

13 “Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by
14 the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-
15 threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law
16 enforcement.

17 b. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall
18 be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school
19 security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire
20 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The alarm shall
21 be directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the
22 case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is
23 no municipal police department, a location designated by the
24 Superintendent of State Police, and shall immediately transmit a
25 signal or message to such authorities upon activation. The alarm
26 shall not be audible within the school building.

27 c. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall
28 be equipped with an emergency light that is linked to the school’s
29 panic alarm and which turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

30

31 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of section 14
32 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) to the contrary, the proceeds of
33 bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of
34 SDA district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs
35 of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county
36 vocational school districts, shall be used to fund the full cost of the
37 panic alarms and emergency lights required in public elementary
38 and secondary school buildings in any district pursuant to section 1
39 of this act.

40

41 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth month
42 after enactment.

43

44

45

STATEMENT

46

47 This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools
48 be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency

S365 RICE, RUIZ

1 including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or
2 active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will not be audible
3 within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement
4 authorities and must immediately transmit a signal or message to the
5 authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent
6 security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device
7 intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that
8 requires a response from law enforcement.

9 The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary
10 schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the
11 exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or
12 near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if
13 the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway, then
14 on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be linked
15 to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic alarm is
16 activated.

17 The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued
18 to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority
19 district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of
20 school facilities projects in all other districts, including county
21 vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic
22 alarms and emergency lights.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 365

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 11, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 365 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill, entitled “Alyssa’s Law,” in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, a 14-year old student and former resident of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which is to be inaudible within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement authorities and immediately transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

The bill provides that the panic alarm must adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories. In addition, the panic alarm must be installed solely by a person licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).

However, a school district may equip its elementary and secondary school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the Department of Education.

The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms or an alternative emergency mechanism approved by the department. If a school district installed a panic alarm or approved

alternative emergency mechanisms prior to the effective date of the bill, then the school district may be reimbursed for those costs.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 764 (2R), as also amended and reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

(1) eliminate the requirement that elementary and secondary school buildings be equipped with an emergency light system;

(2) permit a school district to equip its school buildings with an alternative to a panic alarm if the alternative mechanism is approved by the Department of Education;

(3) provide that if a panic alarm or approved alternative mechanism has been installed prior to the bill's effective date, the district may receive reimbursement for the associated costs; and

(4) revise an internal cross-reference.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill would reallocate bond proceeds that the Schools Development Authority (SDA) uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms or approved alternative mechanisms in school buildings. Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems. After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 365

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2018

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 365 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill, entitled “Alyssa’s Law,” requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The panic alarm, which will not be audible within the school building, must be directly linked to law enforcement authorities and must immediately transmit a signal or message to the authorities upon activation. The bill defines “panic alarm” as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation that requires a response from law enforcement.

The bill also requires that all public elementary and secondary schools be equipped with a red emergency light that is affixed to the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location above or near the front entrance visible from the nearest public roadway or, if the school building is not visible from the nearest public roadway, then on that roadway. The bill requires that the emergency light be linked to the school’s panic alarm so that it turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

The bill directs that the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of the costs of Schools Development Authority district school facilities projects or the State share of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts, including county vocational school districts, be used to fund the full cost of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

The committee amended the bill to name it in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, a 14-year old student, who was killed on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Until a few years ago, Alyssa and her family were residents of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. It is the committee’s hope that the school security measures required under this bill will help to prevent future school tragedies and the senseless loss of life that has accompanied these tragedies.

The committee also amended the bill to provide that the panic alarm and emergency light systems required under the bill must adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories. In addition, the amendments require that the panic alarm and emergency light systems be installed solely by a person licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2018-2019 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 764 (1R) with Senate committee amendments, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 8, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** “Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.
- Type of Impact:** Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds.
Potential Recurring Expenditure Increase to School Districts.
- Agencies Affected:** Schools Development Authority; Department of Education; School Districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Reallocation of State Bond Proceeds	\$2,500,000 to \$12,500,000		
Local Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the Schools Development Authority (SDA) uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings.
- Research on the cost of installing panic alarm systems in schools in recent years suggests that the cost may range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Thereafter, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.
- After installation of the panic alarm systems is completed, school districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires that all public elementary and secondary schools in the State be equipped with at least one panic alarm that is directly linked to local law enforcement (or State Police, if the municipality does not operate its own police department) for use in an emergency situation. The panic alarm must be silent within the school building, and must also activate an emergency light located on the exterior of the school building in a highly visible location.

Proceeds of bonds issued by the Economic Development Authority (EDA) on behalf of the SDA under the “Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act” would be used to finance the installation of the panic alarms and emergency lights.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill would reallocate existing and future bond proceeds that the SDA uses to finance the construction of school facilities. Reallocated funds would pay for the installation of panic alarms and emergency lights in school buildings.

The OLS determines the bill’s effect to be a reallocation of existing and future bond proceeds because State law provides for a ceiling on the par amount of bonds that the EDA may issue on behalf of the SDA to finance school facilities construction. The SDA is approaching the limits of its statutory bonding capacity and has encumbered almost all available funds. If the authority wished to increase its bonding capacity it may not be able to return to capital markets to raise the additional funds without prior voter approval. For that reason, the OLS determines the legislation’s impact to be a reallocation of existing resources.

The cost of installing a panic alarm in a school appears to vary considerably, ranging from \$1,000 per school to \$5,000 per school. Given that there are approximately 2,500 public schools located in the State, the total cost of installing the initial systems required by the legislation may range from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million. Some schools may already be in compliance with the bill’s requirement, however, which would lower the initial cost of the bill. Once the initial systems are installed, panic alarm system purchases would recur intermittently to the extent that schools replace defective and outdated systems.

School districts may incur indeterminate ongoing testing and maintenance costs after the equipment is installed.

Section: Education
Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 764
(Third Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 764 (Third Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would require all public school buildings in New Jersey to be equipped with at least one silent panic alarm directly linked to local law enforcement for use in the event of a school security emergency. It is named in honor of Alyssa Alhadeff, who was just 14 when she was killed on February 14, 2018 in the school shooting at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that claimed seventeen lives. Alyssa was a very special young person, captain of her soccer team, volunteer, and an honor student.

The tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School -- and, sadly, far too many others like it - demand meaningful action. In New Jersey, we have taken the lead, as I have worked with the legislature to pass sensible gun safety legislation that will help prevent gun violence in our State. In addition, under the leadership of Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, we have taken aggressive action to more rigorously enforce existing gun laws and prevent new threats, such as those arising from 3D-printed and "ghost" guns, to become reality.

Despite these efforts, the threat of violence in our schools remains all too real. As a father of four, I applaud the sponsors for their efforts to improve school security in light of recent school shooting tragedies. Protecting our children and ensuring they have a safe space to learn and grow is of paramount importance. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, every second counts. Equipping schools with panic alarms linked to law enforcement is a commonsense measure that

will enable faster response times and more direct, effective communication between schools and first responders. This measure has the potential to save lives and certainly will provide peace of mind for concerned parents across New Jersey who send their children to school every day expecting that they will safely return.

However, while I believe this is a worthy public safety initiative, I am concerned that the bill may not provide school districts with sufficient time and resources to satisfy this mandate. In this regard, the bill proposes to finance the costs of the required panic alarms exclusively through bonds issued by the Schools Development Authority ("SDA") under authority of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act. Because the SDA has nearly exhausted its bonding capacity and only a minimal amount of uncommitted funding remains available for emergent construction needs, I believe the important goals of the bill will be more readily accomplished by identifying a more viable funding source.

Fortunately, a less encumbered funding mechanism will likely become available through the "Secure our Children's Future Bond Act," which I am also returning to the Legislature today with my recommendations for reconsideration. The Bond Act, if approved by the voters in the recommended manner, will set aside a portion of the anticipated proceeds of the bonds for school security system improvements. These anticipated funds will be available to, among other things, purchase and install the silent panic alarms mandated by the bill. I am therefore recommending revisions to link purchase of the panic alarms mandated under this bill to the funding that will become

available to school districts upon voter approval of the Bond Act.

I am also recommending revisions to grant regulatory authority to the SDA to oversee the purchase and installation of these alarms by school districts. Costs of panic alarm systems vary significantly because of variations in school size, configuration, age, and communications system infrastructure. In order to appropriately manage State costs and maintain economies of scale, I believe we should authorize SDA to establish a streamlined program to ensure that systems are designed and installed efficiently.

Finally, my recommended changes extend the bill's effective date in order to accommodate the revised source of funding, which will require approval from the voters, to allow schools sufficient time to purchase and install the alarms.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 764 (Third Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 3, Section 3, Line 4: Delete "Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of"

Page 3, Section 3, Lines 5-8: Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 3, Line 9: Delete "vocational school districts," and insert "A portion of the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund school security, upon voter approval of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 2293 with GR (4R))"

Page 3, Line 17: Insert new section:

"4. The New Jersey Schools Development Authority shall adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law, rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c. 410 (C.52:14B-1et seq.) to establish a program to effectuate the purposes of this Act, which regulations

shall be effective for a period not to exceed six months and may thereafter be amended, adopted or readopted by the Schools Development Authority in accordance with the requirements of P.L.1968, c.410."

Page 3, Section 4, Line 18:

Delete "4." and insert "5."

Page 3, Section 4, Line 19:

Delete "after enactment" and insert "following voter approval of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 2293 with GR (4R))"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor



Newark, N.J.

Governor Murphy Signs “Alyssa’s Law”

02/6/2019

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed A764, also known as “Alyssa’s Law”, requiring all New Jersey public schools to install silent panic alarms that will alert law enforcement during emergencies such as an active shooter, or to employ an alternative emergency mechanism approved by the Department of Education. “Alyssa’s Law” will become a state requirement for all public elementary and secondary schools. This law is in memory of Alyssa Alhadeff, a New Jersey native from Woodcliff Lake who was among the 17 people that were killed in the Parkland shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last February.

“Alyssa’s death is a stark reminder of the dangers of gun violence and the need for adequate school security measures,” **said Governor Murphy**. “In New Jersey, we will do everything in our power to prevent these tragedies from occurring within our borders.”

Sponsors of the bill include Assembly members Ralph Caputo, Cleopatra Tucker, Anette Quijano, Valerie Vainieri Huttel, Shavonda Sumter, and Angela McKnight, and Senators Ronald Rice and Teresa Ruiz.

“The trust our children have in us to protect them is a sacred bond that is worth every measure of effort, to whatever length is required. It has unfortunately, wavered these past few years as students increasingly feel unsafe at school. Fortifying our schools’ emergency response capabilities is a small endeavor compared to the value of our children,” **said Senator Rice**. “New Jersey will be propelled into the forefront of states which are harnessing the power of technology to protect our schools from the type of heart-wrenching tragedies we’ve seen far too many times in the news. But more than that, it will help fulfill our responsibility to the children that we hold so dear.”

“We must do everything in our power to ensure the safety of our children and their teachers. Gun violence is a public health crisis which has effected the security of our communities for far too long,” **said Senator Ruiz**. “When we drop our children off at school we should be confident that they are safe from harm. This law is a proactive way of making our schools better protected against the threat of violence.”

“Our children deserve the chance to learn in peace,” **said Assemblyman Caputo**. “It has taken six years to get to this day. I thank the leadership of the Assembly and Senate for posting the bill, as well as, the Governor for creating a pathway for the legislation to become law. Alyssa’s family and community have been steadfast champions of this bill and I commend them for that. Coupled with security measures already in place, this law can increase the chances of diffusing a bad situation without further harm to students and staff.”

“On February 14th, 2018, 17 people were brutally murdered at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida including our 14-year-old daughter Alyssa,” **said Ian and Lori Alhadeff, parents of Alyssa Alhadeff**. “As former residents of NJ, we are honored that Assemblymen Holley and Caputo, Mayor Carlos Rendo of Woodcliff Lake, Lisa Yakomin, and the NJ voters took action to make schools safe in NJ on behalf of our daughter Alyssa. Our hearts are overwhelmed to know our daughter’s death is making national changes for school safety and hopefully other states will follow suit. It is with great pleasure to join Governor Murphy to witness this bill signing and we know that Alyssa is watching from above.”



[Back to Top](#)

Powered by [Google Translate](#) [Select Language](#)

[Translator Disclaimer](#)

Governor Phil Murphy

[Home](#)

[Administration](#)

- [Governor Phil Murphy](#)
- [Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver](#)
- [First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy](#)
- [Cabinet](#)
- [Boards, Commissions & Authorities](#)
- [Internship](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Governor's Residence - Drumthwacket](#)

[Key Initiatives](#)

- [Economy & Jobs](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Law & Justice](#)
- [Transportation](#)

[News & Events](#)

- [Press Releases](#)
- [Public Addresses](#)
- [Executive Orders](#)
- [Statements on Legislation](#)
- [Administration Reports](#)
- [Transition Reports](#)
- [Press Kits](#)

[Social](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Snapchat](#)
- [YouTube](#)

[Contact Us](#)

- [Scheduling Requests](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Statewide

- [NJ Home](#)
- [Services A to Z](#)
- [Departments/Agencies](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Privacy Notice](#)
- [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#)
- [Accessibility Statement](#)



Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2018
Office of Governor PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

powered by **njit**

YOURMONEY.NJ.GOV