

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 240

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2002

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 240.

As amended, this bill provides that public school pupils may refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of their course of instruction. Any pupil choosing not to participate in such activities must be provided with an alternative education project by the school for the purpose of providing the pupil with the factual knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study. The bill also provides that a pupil may not be discriminated against, in grading or otherwise, based upon his or her decision to exercise the rights afforded in this act.

Amendments were adopted to add a living organism that is an invertebrate to the definition of animal, to provide that the notice of the right of pupils and their parents and guardians to refuse to participate in the activities must be issued at the beginning of each school year, and to require pupils, parents or guardians to respond to the notice within two weeks in order to exercise their right.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2002 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.