

SENATE, No. 3098

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cunningham, Pou, Beach, Gordon, Greenstein and Turner

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning school security alarms and supplementing
2 chapter 41 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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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.

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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.

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

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STATEMENT

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

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

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