

SENATE, No. 801

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator KEVIN J. O'TOOLE

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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Senators Beach, Ruiz and Vitale

SYNOPSIS

Requires schools to maintain supply of epinephrine and permit administration of epinephrine to any student having anaphylactic reaction.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning the emergency administration of epinephrine to
2 students for anaphylaxis and amending P.L.1997, c.368 and
3 P.L.2007, c.57.

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

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1997, c.368 (C.18A:40-12.5) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. Each board of education or chief school administrator of a
11 nonpublic school shall develop a policy in accordance with the
12 guidelines established by the Department of Education pursuant to
13 section 4 of P.L.2007, c.57 (C.18A:40-12.6a) for the emergency
14 administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector
15 mechanism to a pupil for anaphylaxis provided that:

16 a. the parents or guardians of the pupil provide to the board of
17 education or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school
18 written authorization for the administration of the epinephrine;

19 b. the parents or guardians of the pupil provide to the board of
20 education or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school
21 written orders from the physician or advanced practice nurse that
22 the pupil requires the administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis;

23 c. the board or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school
24 informs the parents or guardians of the pupil in writing that the
25 district and its employees or agents or the nonpublic school and its
26 employees or agents shall have no liability as a result of any injury
27 arising from the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled
28 auto-injector mechanism;

29 d. the parents or guardians of the pupil sign a statement
30 acknowledging their understanding that the district or the nonpublic
31 school shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from
32 the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector
33 mechanism to the pupil and that the parents or guardians shall
34 indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or
35 agents or the nonpublic school and its employees or agents against
36 any claims arising out of the administration of the epinephrine via a
37 pre-filled auto-injector mechanism; and

38 e. the permission is effective for the school year for which it is
39 granted and is renewed for each subsequent school year upon
40 fulfillment of the requirements in subsections a. through d. of this
41 section.

42 The policy developed by a board of education or chief school
43 administrator of a nonpublic school shall require:

44 (1) the placement of a pupil's prescribed epinephrine in a secure
45 but unlocked location easily accessible by the school nurse and

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.

1 designees to ensure prompt availability in the event of an allergic
2 emergency at school or at a school-sponsored function. The
3 location of the epinephrine shall be indicated on the pupil's
4 emergency care plan. Back-up epinephrine shall also be available
5 at the school if needed;

6 (2) the school nurse or designee to be promptly available on site
7 at the school and school-sponsored functions in the event of an
8 allergic reaction; and

9 (3) the transportation of the pupil to a hospital emergency room
10 by emergency services personnel after the administration of
11 epinephrine, even if the pupil's symptoms appear to have resolved.

12 f. The policy developed by a board of education or chief
13 school administrator of a nonpublic school shall also:

14 (1) permit the school nurse or trained designee to administer
15 epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism to any pupil
16 whose parent or guardian has not met the requirements of
17 subsections a., b., and d. of this section and has not received the
18 notice required pursuant to subsection c. of this section when the
19 nurse or designee in good faith believes that the pupil is having an
20 anaphylactic reaction; and

21 (2) require each public and nonpublic school to maintain in a
22 secure but unlocked and easily accessible location a supply of
23 epinephrine auto-injectors that is prescribed under a standing
24 protocol from a licensed physician, and is accessible to the school
25 nurse and trained designees for administration to a pupil having an
26 anaphylactic reaction.

27 (cf: P.L.2007, c.57, s.2)

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29 2. Section 2 of P.L.1997, c.368 (C.18A:40-12.6) is amended to
30 read as follows:

31 2. The policy for the administration of medication to a pupil
32 shall provide that the school nurse shall have the primary
33 responsibility for the administration of the epinephrine. The school
34 nurse shall designate, in consultation with the board of education, or
35 chief school administrator of a nonpublic school additional
36 employees of the school district or nonpublic school who volunteer
37 to administer epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism
38 to a pupil for anaphylaxis when the nurse is not physically present
39 at the scene. **【The】** Except as otherwise provided pursuant to
40 subsection f. of section 1 of P.L.1997, c. 368 (C.18A:40-12.5), the
41 school nurse shall determine that:

42 a. the designees have been properly trained in the
43 administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector
44 mechanism using standardized training protocols established by the
45 Department of Education in consultation with the Department of
46 Health and Senior Services;

- 1 b. the parents or guardians of the pupil consent in writing to the
2 administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector
3 mechanism by the designees;
- 4 c. the board or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school
5 informs the parents or guardians of the pupil in writing that the
6 district and its employees or agents or the nonpublic school and its
7 employees and agents shall have no liability as a result of any injury
8 arising from the administration of the epinephrine to the pupil;
- 9 d. the parents or guardians of the pupil sign a statement
10 acknowledging their understanding that the district or nonpublic
11 school shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from
12 the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector
13 mechanism to the pupil and that the parents or guardians shall
14 indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or
15 agents against any claims arising out of the administration of the
16 epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism to the pupil;
17 and
- 18 e. the permission is effective for the school year for which it is
19 granted and is renewed for each subsequent school year upon
20 fulfillment of the requirements in subsections a. through d. of this
21 section.

22 The Department of Education, in consultation with the
23 Department of Health and Senior Services, shall require trained
24 designees for students enrolled in a school who may require the
25 emergency administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis when the
26 school nurse is not available.

27 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the
28 emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-
29 injector mechanism to a pupil for anaphylaxis by the school nurse
30 or other employees designated pursuant to this section when the
31 pupil is authorized to self-administer epinephrine pursuant to
32 section 1 of P.L.1993, c.308 (C.18A:40-12.3), or when there is a
33 coexisting diagnosis of asthma, or when a prescription is received
34 from a licensed health care professional for epinephrine coupled
35 with another form of medication, or when the epinephrine is
36 administered pursuant to subsection f. of section 1 of P.L.1997,
37 c.368 (C.18A:40-12.5).
38 (cf: P.L.2007, c.57, s.3)

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40 3. Section 7 of P.L.2007, c.57 (C.18A:40-12.6d) is amended to
41 read as follows:

42 7. No school employee, including a school nurse, or any other
43 officer or agent of a board of education or nonpublic school, or a
44 physician providing a prescription under a standing protocol for
45 school epinephrine pursuant to subsection f. of section 1 of P.L.
46 1997, c. 368 (C.18A:40-12.5), shall be held liable for any good faith
47 act or omission consistent with the provisions of P.L.1997, c.368

1 (C.18A:40-12.5 et seq.), nor shall an action before the New Jersey
2 State Board of Nursing lie against a school nurse for any such
3 action taken by a person designated in good faith by the school
4 nurse pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1997, c.368 (C.18A:40-12.6).
5 Good faith shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence or
6 recklessness.

7 (cf: P.L.2007, c.57, s.7)

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9 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 Current law requires boards of education and nonpublic school
15 administrators to develop policies concerning the emergency
16 administration of epinephrine to a student provided that the
17 student's parent or guardian provides written authorization for
18 administration of the epinephrine and written orders from a
19 physician that the student requires epinephrine for anaphylaxis.
20 This bill would amend the law concerning the emergency
21 administration of epinephrine to require that school nurses and
22 trained designees be permitted to administer epinephrine to any
23 student whose parent has not met the prior authorization and
24 physician order requirements when the nurse or designee in good
25 faith believes that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction.
26 The bill also would require that public and nonpublic schools
27 maintain in a secure but unlocked and easily accessible location a
28 supply of epinephrine auto-injectors that is prescribed under a
29 standing protocol from a licensed physician and is accessible to the
30 school nurse and trained designees for administration to a pupil
31 having an anaphylactic reaction. The bill also amends the law
32 providing immunity from liability to school employees and agents
33 for good faith acts or omissions concerning the emergency
34 administration of epinephrine to specifically include a physician
35 providing a prescription under a standing protocol for school
36 epinephrine.

37 A growing number of children in the United States have food
38 allergies, which can lead to severe and potentially life-threatening
39 allergic reactions. Receiving an immediate dose of injectable
40 epinephrine for anaphylaxis can be a life-saving measure. A child
41 may experience an allergic reaction for the first time while at
42 school, in which case the child would not have a prior prescription
43 for epinephrine on file with the school. In response to the rise in
44 child food allergies, a number of states have enacted laws allowing
45 schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine not prescribed to an
46 individual student that can be used for any student in an
47 anaphylactic emergency. Similarly, a recently introduced federal

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1 bill, the “School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act,” would
2 encourage states to require that their public elementary and
3 secondary schools maintain a supply of epinephrine that can be
4 administered to any student believed in good faith to be having an
5 anaphylactic reaction.