

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)

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District 37 (Bergen)

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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.

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STATEMENT

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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.