ASSEMBLY, No. 1888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

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Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Requires minimum of one school bus aide for every 15 special needs students on school bus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

| AN ACT concerning school bus aides and supplementing chapter 3 | 39 |
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| of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes. | |

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

1. a. A board of education or a contractor that provides pupil transportation services under contract with a board of education shall ensure that a school bus has on board at least one school bus aide for every 15 students with special needs. The aide-to-student ratio shall be maintained at all times when a school bus is transporting students with special needs or a combination of students with special needs and general education students.

b. As used in this section, "student with special needs" means a student who is classified as eligible for special education programs and services, but shall not include a student who is classified as eligible for special education programs and services solely on the basis of a "specific learning disability," as the term is defined in the federal "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act," 20 U.S.C. s.1400 et seq.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the first full school year following the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

 This bill establishes a minimum ratio of school bus aides to special needs students on a school bus.

Under the bill, a board of education or a contracted service provider that provides pupil transportation services must ensure that a school bus has on board at least one school bus aide for every 15 students with special needs. The bill requires this aide-to-student ratio to be maintained at all times when a school bus is transporting students with special needs or a combination of students with special needs and general education students.

For purposes of this bill, a "student with special needs" is a student who is classified as eligible for special education programs and services, but does not include a student who is classified as eligible for special education programs and services solely on the basis of a "specific learning disability," as that term is defined in the federal "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act."

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