ASSEMBLY, No. 4404

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

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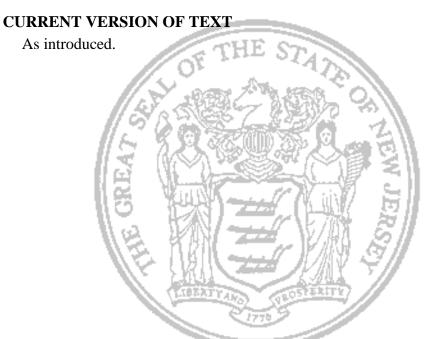
Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO
District 2 (Atlantic)

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SYNOPSIS

Provides that certain persons who commit act of sexual penetration or sexual contact with students who are 16 or older are guilty of sexual assault or criminal sexual contact.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/27/2018)

AN ACT concerning sexual assault and criminal sexual contact and amending N.J.S.2C:14-2 and N.J.S.2C:14-3.

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

- 1. N.J.S.2C:14-2 is amended to read as follows:
- a. An actor is guilty of aggravated sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual penetration with another person under any one of the following circumstances:
 - (1) The victim is less than 13 years old;
 - (2) The victim is at least 13 but less than 16 years old; and
- (a) The actor is related to the victim by blood or affinity to the third degree, or
- (b) The actor has supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim by virtue of the actor's legal, professional, or occupational status, or
- (c) The actor is a resource family parent, a guardian, or stands in loco parentis within the household;
- (3) The act is committed during the commission, or attempted commission, whether alone or with one or more other persons, of robbery, kidnapping, homicide, aggravated assault on another, burglary, arson or criminal escape;
- (4) The actor is armed with a weapon or any object fashioned in such a manner as to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a weapon and threatens by word or gesture to use the weapon or object;
- (5) The actor is aided or abetted by one or more other persons and the actor uses physical force or coercion;
- (6) The actor uses physical force or coercion and severe personal injury is sustained by the victim;
- (7) The victim is one whom the actor knew or should have known was physically helpless or incapacitated, intellectually or mentally incapacitated, or had a mental disease or defect which rendered the victim temporarily or permanently incapable of understanding the nature of his conduct, including, but not limited to, being incapable of providing consent.

Aggravated sexual assault is a crime of the first degree.

Except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section, a person convicted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be sentenced to a specific term of years which shall be fixed by the court and shall be between 25 years and life imprisonment of which the person shall serve 25 years before being eligible for parole, unless a longer term of parole ineligibility is otherwise provided pursuant to this Title.

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

b. An actor is guilty of sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual contact with a victim who is less than 13 years old and the actor is at least four years older than the victim.

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(cf: P.L.2014, c.7, s.1)

- c. An actor is guilty of sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual penetration with another person under any one of the following circumstances:
- (1) The actor uses physical force or coercion, but the victim does not sustain severe personal injury;
- (2) The victim is on probation or parole, or is detained in a hospital, prison or other institution and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim by virtue of the actor's legal, professional or occupational status;
 - (3) The victim is at least 16 but less than 18 years old and:
- (a) The actor is related to the victim by blood or affinity to the third degree; or
- (b) The actor has supervisory or disciplinary power of any nature or in any capacity over the victim; or
- (c) The actor is a resource family parent, a guardian, or stands in loco parentis within the household;
- (4) The victim is at least 13 but less than 16 years old and the actor is at least four years older than the victim;
- (5) The victim is a pupil 16 years of age or older and has not received a high school diploma and:
- (a) the actor is 21 years of age or older and is employed by, or a volunteer at, the public or private school at which the victim is enrolled or is attending at the time of the sexual penetration; and
- (b) the actor has had interaction with the victim in the course of performing his or her duties as an employee or volunteer.

Sexual assault is a crime of the second degree.

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this section, where a defendant is charged with a violation under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section, the prosecutor, in consideration of the interests of the victim, may offer a negotiated plea agreement in which the defendant would be sentenced to a specific term of imprisonment of not less than 15 years, during which the defendant shall not be eligible for parole. In such event, the court may accept the negotiated plea agreement and upon such conviction shall impose the term of imprisonment and period of parole ineligibility as provided for in the plea agreement, and may not impose a lesser term of imprisonment or parole or a lesser period of parole ineligibility than that expressly provided in the plea agreement. The Attorney General shall develop guidelines to ensure the uniform exercise of discretion in making determinations regarding a negotiated reduction in the term of imprisonment and period of parole ineligibility set forth in subsection a. of this section.

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a. An actor is guilty of aggravated criminal sexual contact if he commits an act of sexual contact with the victim under any of the circumstances set forth in 2C:14-2a. (2) through (7).

2. N.J.S.2C:14-3 is amended to read as follows:

- Aggravated criminal sexual contact is a crime of the third degree.
- b. An actor is guilty of criminal sexual contact if he commits an act of sexual contact with the victim under any of the circumstances set forth in section 2C:14-2c. (1) through \[\big[(4) \big] \] (5).
- Criminal sexual contact is a crime of the fourth degree.

10 (cf: P.L.1997, c.194, s.2)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill provides that a person is guilty of sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual penetration with a victim who is a pupil who has not received a high school diploma and is 16 years of age or older, and the person is employed by, or is a volunteer at, the public or private school which the victim is attending, and the person had interaction with the victim in the course of performing his duties as a school employee or volunteer.

The bill also provides that a person is guilty of criminal sexual contact if he commits an act of sexual contact under the same conditions.

Sexual assault is a crime of the second degree. Criminal sexual contact is a crime of the fourth degree.