

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4447

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2018

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4447 (1R).

This bill requires the Chief Administrator (“chief administrator”) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to suspend the school bus endorsement on a person’s driver’s license for 90 days if the person is convicted of three or more motor vehicle moving violations in a three-year period or accumulates six or more motor vehicle penalty points while operating a commercial motor vehicle or non-commercial motor vehicle. The chief administrator is required to notify the Commissioner of Education of the suspension within one business day of the suspension and the Commissioner of Education is required to notify the school bus driver’s employer of the suspension within one business day of that notification. Once notified, the employing board of education, non-public school, or contractor is required to notify the Department of Education that the person no longer operates a school bus for the board, non-public school, or contractor.

Prior to the reinstatement of a school bus endorsement suspended pursuant to the bill, the person is required to complete a defensive driving course. The chief administrator is authorized to provide additional requirements for reinstatement of the school bus endorsement.

The bill applies to convictions for motor vehicle moving violations that occur after the effective date of the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) is likely to incur an indeterminate cost to alter the points system in order to provide a notification to staff any time a bus driver has accumulated six points. If this is not a function already built into the point system software, computer programming costs will be incurred to create the function at an unknown cost, which will depend upon the amount of programming labor required.

The commission, Department of Education, employers of bus drivers, and local boards of education will all face administrative costs in communicating to one another concerning the suspension of the

license of the bus driver and to confirm that the bus driver no longer operates a bus during the period of license suspension. These administrative costs to each entity will depend upon the number of bus drivers that have their license suspended, and the resultant portion of staff time dedicated to conveying the information and ensuring compliance. Without information about the number of bus drivers who accumulate 6 points, and the staff time per suspension that each entity will dedicated to compliance, it is not possible to determine the number of employees necessary.