## SENATE, No. 406

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

## PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:<br>Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER<br>District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)<br>Senator M. TERESA RUIZ<br>District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Diegnan

## 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 39 

 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 requires a board of education or a contracted service provider that provides pupil transportation services to 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."

