

SENATE, No. 2404

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Postpones New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) review for certain school districts to accommodate disruption due to COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability
2 Continuum and supplementing P.L.1975, c.212 (C.18A:7A-3 et
3 seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 11 of P.L.1975,
9 c.212 (C.18A:7A-11) or any other section of law to the contrary, the
10 Department of Education shall postpone the comprehensive review
11 under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum
12 until the 2021-2022 school year for any school district that is
13 required to undergo:

14 (1) a comprehensive review in the 2019-2020 school year,
15 which review was not completed due to the COVID-19-related
16 school closures; or

17 (2) a comprehensive review in the 2020-2021 school year.

18 b. If a school district is required to undergo a comprehensive
19 review in the 2021-2022 school year due to the postponement
20 provided under subsection a. of this section, then the school district
21 shall undergo its next following comprehensive review three years
22 after the school year in which its comprehensive review was
23 originally scheduled to take place.

24 c. The postponement of the comprehensive review for school
25 districts under subsection a. of this subsection shall not disrupt the
26 comprehensive review schedule for any other school district.

27 d. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the
28 contrary, the Commissioner of Education may exempt a school
29 district, upon request, from the postponement of the comprehensive
30 review required pursuant to this section.
31

32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
33
34

35 STATEMENT
36

37 Under current law, each school district is required to undergo a
38 comprehensive review under the State monitoring system, the New
39 Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC). To
40 accommodate the workload involved in monitoring the school
41 districts in the State, only a certain number of school districts are
42 required to undergo the monitoring in any one year according to a
43 schedule established by the Commissioner of Education.

44 This bill would postpone the comprehensive review under
45 NJQSAC for certain districts in order to allow the school districts
46 and the Department of Education to focus their time and resources
47 in addressing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill
48 provides that the comprehensive review will instead take place in

1 the 2021-2022 school year for any school district that is required to
2 undergo (1) a comprehensive review in the 2019-2020 school year,
3 which review was not completed due to the COVID-19-related
4 school closures; or (2) a comprehensive review in the 2020-2021
5 school year. These districts will be required to undergo their next
6 comprehensive review, however, as if the postponement had not
7 occurred. Additionally, the bill stipulates that all school districts
8 that are not subject to the bill's provisions will continue to be
9 monitored according to their regular three-year schedule. The
10 postponements permitted under this bill will not disrupt the
11 schedule for any other school district's comprehensive review.

12 The bill provides, however, that a school district may request and
13 receive an exemption from the postponement of the comprehensive
14 review under the bill. The school district would undergo the
15 comprehensive review when it was originally scheduled.