

SENATE, No. 2735

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 28, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Permits school districts to apply to DOE for reimbursement of costs of ultraviolet-C lights and air filter units for addressing transmission of COVID-19.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning ultraviolet-C lights and air filter units in public
2 schools and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. A board of education that determines to purchase
9 ultraviolet-C lights or air filter units for school buildings in the
10 school district for the purpose of addressing the transmission of the
11 coronavirus disease 2019 may apply to the Department of Education
12 for reimbursement of the costs of the purchase.

13 b. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
14 Department of Health, may develop guidelines concerning:

15 (1) the appropriate type of ultraviolet-C lights needed to
16 adequately sanitize a school building;

17 (2) the appropriate type of air filter units needed to address
18 airborne transmission of the coronavirus disease 2019; and

19 (3) the safe and proper use of the ultraviolet-C lights for
20 purposes of sanitizing classrooms.

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22 2. a. The Department of Education shall establish application
23 guidelines and eligibility criteria for reimbursement of the costs of
24 purchasing ultraviolet-C lights and air filter units pursuant to this
25 act.

26 b. Within 30 days of receipt of a school district's application
27 for reimbursement, the department shall determine whether a school
28 district is eligible for reimbursement. Within 60 days of the
29 department's eligibility determination, the department shall
30 reimburse an eligible school district for the costs of the ultraviolet-
31 C lights and air filter units.

32 c. Total reimbursement by the department under this act shall
33 not exceed \$1,000,000.

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35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 In response to the public health emergency presented by COVID-
41 19, and pursuant to Executive Order 104 of 2020, schools across the
42 State were required to cease in-person instruction and transition to
43 virtual and remote learning as of March 18, 2020. When the time
44 comes for students and school staff to return to the classroom, it
45 will be imperative that there are appropriate cleaning and
46 disinfecting procedures in place to ensure a safe and clean learning
47 environment.

S2735 DIEGNAN

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1 Under the bill, a board of education that determines to purchase
2 ultraviolet-C (UVC) lights or air filter units for school buildings in
3 the school district for the purpose of addressing the transmission of
4 COVID-19 may apply to the Department of Education (DOE) for
5 reimbursement of the costs of the purchase.

6 The DOE, in consultation with the Department of Health, may
7 develop guidelines concerning: (1) the appropriate type of UVC
8 lights needed to adequately sanitize a school building; (2) the
9 appropriate type of air filter units needed to address the airborne
10 transmission of COVID-19; and (3) the safe and proper use of the
11 UVC lights for purposes of sanitizing classrooms.

12 Under the bill, the DOE will establish application guidelines and
13 eligibility criteria for reimbursement. Within 30 days of receipt of
14 a school district's application, the DOE will determine whether a
15 school district is eligible for reimbursement. The DOE will
16 reimburse eligible school districts for the costs of the UVC lights
17 and air filter units within 60 days of its eligibility determination.
18 Total reimbursement by the DOE for UVC lights and air filter units
19 will not exceed \$1,000,000.