

ASSEMBLY, No. 689

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen ZISA and GARCIA

1 AN ACT concerning the unlawful possession of firearms and other
2 weapons in public schools, establishing toll-free telephone hotlines,
3 and supplementing chapter 39 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

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9 1. a. The Attorney General, after consultation with the several
10 county prosecutors of this State and the Commissioner of Education,
11 shall establish a toll-free telephone hotline in each county to facilitate
12 the reporting of information relating to the unlawful possession of
13 firearms or other weapons in the public schools.

14 b. The source of any information provided under this act shall, to
15 the greatest extent possible, be deemed and treated as confidential and
16 privileged.

17 c. Any person who knowingly gives or causes to be given false
18 information relating to the unlawful possession of a firearm or other
19 weapon in a public school shall be subject to the penalties set forth in
20 N.J.S.2C:28-4.

21 d. The Attorney General, in conjunction with the several county
22 prosecutors of this State and the Commissioner of Education, shall
23 develop and conduct a program of public education to inform students
24 and the general public of the availability and purposes of the toll-free
25 telephone hotlines established under this act.

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill directs the Attorney General, after consultation with the
33 various county prosecutors and the Commissioner of Education, to
34 establish a toll-free telephone hotline in each county to facilitate the
35 reporting of information relating to the unlawful possession of firearms

1 or other weapons in the public schools. The bill stipulates that to the
2 greatest extent possible, any information provided is to be treated as
3 confidential and privileged.

4 The bill further provides that anyone using a hot-line to knowingly
5 provide false information about an individual unlawfully possessing a
6 firearm or other weapon in a public school is guilty of violating
7 N.J.S.2C:28-4 which is punishable either as a crime of the fourth
8 degree or a disorderly persons offense.

9 Finally, the Attorney General is directed to develop and conduct a
10 program of public education to inform students and the general public
11 about the availability and purposes of the telephone hotlines.

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16 Establishes a toll-free telephone hotline in each county for reporting
17 guns and other weapons in public schools.