

SENATE, No. 1040

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 2, 1996

By Senators RICE, LESNIAK, Girgenti, Kenny, O'Connor,  
Scott, Bryant, Palaia, Lipman and LaRossa

1 AN ACT concerning public school facilities and supplementing chapter  
2 20 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The board of education of each school district that meets the  
8 criteria established pursuant to subsection b. of this section may ensure  
9 that at least one half of the public elementary school playgrounds,  
10 gyms and other facilities owned, maintained and managed by the board  
11 either separately or in conjunction with the governing body of the  
12 municipality are kept open after regular school hours, if the governing  
13 body of the municipality by ordinance permits such activity by the  
14 board. These facilities shall be utilized for the provision of organized  
15 recreational and academic enrichment programs for public school  
16 pupils.

17 b. The provisions of this act shall apply to school districts which:  
18 (1) as of January 1, 1988, have failed to achieve certification as  
19 providing a thorough and efficient education pursuant to section 14 of  
20 P.L. 1975, c.212 (C.18A:7A-14), are located in a municipality which  
21 had a population of more than 15,000 according to the 1980 federal  
22 decennial census and qualifies for State aid pursuant to P.L. 1978, c.14  
23 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.); or (2) are located in a municipality which had  
24 a population of more than 100,000 according to the 1980 federal  
25 decennial census and qualifies for State aid pursuant to P.L. 1978, c.  
26 14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.).

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28 2. In order to comply with the provisions of section 1 of this act,  
29 each board of education shall prepare a comprehensive plan which  
30 shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

31 a. The goals and objectives of the programs and the way in which  
32 they will serve the needs and interest of the residents of the  
33 municipality;

34 b. A detailed description of the recreational and academic  
35 enrichment programs that will be provided to the students;

36 c. The background and qualifications of the personnel who will

- 1 direct and supervise the programs;
- 2 d. A specific annual schedule showing the days and hours during
- 3 which the programs will operate;
- 4 e. The criteria which will be utilized to determine eligibility for
- 5 student participation in the programs;
- 6 f. An estimate of the number of students who will be served by the
- 7 programs;
- 8 g. An estimate, by line item, of the annual budget for the operation
- 9 of the programs; and
- 10 h. Any other information which the board determines to be
- 11 necessary.
- 12
- 13 3. A plan which is not approved by the majority of the board's
- 14 members shall be revised for review and approval of the board.
- 15
- 16 4. a. Each board of education, in conjunction with the governing
- 17 body of the municipality, shall determine the method by which these
- 18 programs are to be funded and may apply for any available State or
- 19 federal funds to carry out the purposes of this act. The board of
- 20 education, in conjunction with the governing body of the municipality,
- 21 shall conduct two public hearings on any proposal to establish the
- 22 programs pursuant to this act.
- 23 b. Any funds provided for the establishment of programs pursuant
- 24 to this act shall be dedicated for that purpose.
- 25
- 26 5. This act shall take effect immediately.
- 27
- 28

#### 29 STATEMENT

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31 This bill provides that school districts which meet the criteria

32 established by the bill are required to keep at least one-half of the

33 elementary school playgrounds, gyms and other facilities open after

34 regular school hours, if the governing body of the municipality by

35 ordinance permits such activity by the board. The facilities will be

36 used for structured recreational and academic enrichment programs for

37 public school pupils and will be supervised by qualified personnel. The

38 board of education is to prepare a comprehensive and detailed plan for

39 the programs to be provided.

40 The provisions of this bill apply to districts in Level II or Level III

41 monitoring as of January 1, 1988 in municipalities which are eligible

42 for urban aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c. 14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.) and

43 which have a population of more than 15,000 or districts in

44 municipalities which are eligible for urban aid and which have a

45 population of more than 100,000. The following districts meet those

46 criteria at this time: Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Camden, Elizabeth,

1 Irvington, Jersey City, Newark, Passaic, Paterson, Plainfield and  
2 Trenton City.

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7 Permits establishment of after school recreational and academic  
8 enrichment programs in school facilities in certain school districts.