

SENATE, No. 2319

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 11, 1997

By Senator CAFIERO

1 AN ACT concerning fund-raising activities by public school districts
2 and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 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. The Legislature finds and declares that the past 25 years have
9 witnessed significant changes in the structure of communities and
10 families within the State; that the make-up of communities and
11 neighborhoods has become more fluid as increasing numbers of people
12 are required to move fairly frequently from one community to another
13 due to professional and occupational demands; that both the rise in the
14 number of families in which two parents are working outside of the
15 home, as well as the increase in the number of single parent families in
16 which the principal caretaker must be employed outside of the home,
17 have meant that fewer parents are available during the day to provide
18 direct supervision of their children's activities; and that all of these
19 factors make it advisable to re-examine the fund-raising activities in
20 which public school students have been engaged to determine their
21 appropriateness in light of changing societal factors and to revise those
22 practices when necessary to better protect the health and safety of
23 students.

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25 2. a. No public school or any school-sponsored organization,
26 including, but not limited to, school sports team, band, extracurricular
27 activity club, booster club, or parent-teacher organization, shall
28 engage in any fund-raising activity that includes door-to-door sales by
29 students. As used in this section, "door-to-door sales" means the
30 selling of merchandise or the soliciting of funds off school grounds and
31 outside of the student's home in which the student travels unsupervised
32 by school district personnel from one residence or business to another
33 within the community to raise funds for the school or school-
34 sponsored organization.

35 b. No public school or any school-sponsored organization,
36 including, but not limited to, school sports team, band, extracurricular
37 activity club, booster club, or parent-teacher organization, shall

1 engage in any fund-raising activity that includes incentives or bonus
2 points awarded to students through which the student may earn a prize
3 or other remuneration for the selling of merchandise or the raising of
4 funds for the school or school-sponsored organization.

5 c. The Commissioner of Education shall monitor the compliance of
6 school districts with the provisions of this act. If the commissioner
7 finds that any district has violated the provisions of this act, he shall
8 suspend the district from engaging in all fund-raising activities for at
9 least one school year or for such longer period as he determines to be
10 appropriate.

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12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 STATEMENT

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17 Recent events which have occurred within the State have
18 demonstrated that public school district fund-raising activities which
19 include unsupervised door-to-door sales by students can have tragic
20 consequences; and that in light of those events it is necessary to
21 examine the fund-raising practices of schools and school-sponsored
22 organizations and to revise them to better protect the health and safety
23 of students.

24 This bill prohibits school districts and school-sponsored
25 organizations from engaging in fund-raising activities which include
26 door-to-door sales by students. The bill defines door-to-door sales as
27 the selling of merchandise or the soliciting of funds off school grounds
28 and outside of the student's home in which the student travels
29 unsupervised by school district personnel from one residence or
30 business to another within the community to raise funds for the school
31 or school-sponsored organization. The bill also prohibits school
32 districts or school-sponsored organizations from engaging in any fund-
33 raising activity that includes incentives or bonus points awarded to
34 students through which the student may earn a prize or other
35 remuneration for raising funds.

36 The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to monitor the
37 compliance of school districts with the bill's requirements. If the
38 commissioner finds that a school district has violated the prohibition
39 on door-to-door sales or sales incentives, then he must suspend the
40 district from engaging in all fund-raising activities for at least one
41 school year or such longer period as he determines is appropriate.

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45 Prohibits public school fund-raising activities which include
46 unsupervised door-to-door sales by students.