

SENATE, No. 3852

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Revises violation and fines for approving or assigning unauthorized individuals as school bus drivers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2021)

1
2 AN ACT concerning unauthorized school bus drivers and amending
3 N.J.S.18A:39-20.

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

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8 1. N.J.S.18A:39-20 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:39-20. No board of education or contractor shall
10 **[knowingly]** approve or **[knowingly]** assign an individual, as a
11 driver or substitute driver of a school bus, without first complying
12 with the provisions of this chapter, and any person violating, or
13 failing to comply with such provisions shall be subject to a fine of:

14 a. not more than \$5,000 for each driver unlawfully approved or
15 assigned for the first offense;

16 b. not more than \$10,000 for each driver unlawfully approved
17 or assigned for the second offense; and

18 c. not more than \$15,000 for each driver unlawfully approved
19 or assigned for a third and each subsequent offense.

20 It shall not be a defense to avoid liability under this section that a
21 board of education or contractor unknowingly failed to comply with
22 the provisions of this chapter.

23 (cf: P.L.2003, c.66, s.5)

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25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill amends current law to hold a board of education or
31 school bus contractor responsible if they approve or assign an
32 individual, as a driver or substitute driver of a school bus, without
33 first complying with the provisions of law concerning the training,
34 certification, and criminal history record checks of school bus
35 drivers. The bill increases the fines associated with such an action
36 from not more than \$5,000 for each offense to not more than \$5,000
37 for the first offense, not more than \$10,000 for the second offense,
38 and not more than \$15,000 for a third and each subsequent offense.
39 The bill clarifies that it will not be a defense to avoid liability that a
40 board of education or contractor unknowingly failed to comply with
41 the provisions of law concerning the training, certification, and
42 criminal history record checks of school bus drivers.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.