

ASSEMBLY, No. 4334

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Caputo

SYNOPSIS

Requires students, staff, and others present at institutions of higher education to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/15/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning student vaccinations and supplementing Title
2 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Health shall require vaccination
8 against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a condition of in-
9 person enrollment in, in-person attendance of classes or activities
10 at, in-person employment by, or providing or receiving in-person
11 services at or through, a public or private institution of higher
12 education in this State.

13 b. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, an institution of
14 higher education shall not enroll or retain on an in-person basis any
15 student, or employ, retain, or utilize the services of any other
16 individual on an in-person basis, who has not submitted acceptable
17 evidence of the student's or other individual's vaccination against
18 COVID-19, as provided by regulation of the Commissioner of
19 Health.

20 c. The Commissioner of Health shall require each institution of
21 higher education in this State to offer the COVID-19 vaccination to
22 its students, staff, employees, and in-person contracted workers
23 through the institution's student health services program or through
24 a contractual agreement with a community health care provider.

25 d. A student or other individual shall not be required to receive
26 a vaccination against COVID-19 under this section if the student or
27 other individual, or the student or other individual's parent or
28 guardian in the case of a student or other individual who is younger
29 than 18 years of age, submits to the institution of higher education:

30 (1) a written statement issued by a licensed physician indicating
31 that the COVID-19 vaccine is medically contraindicated for a
32 specific period of time and the reasons for the medical
33 contraindication, which shall be valid medical reasons as
34 determined by regulation of the Commissioner of Health. A
35 statement that meets the requirements of this paragraph shall
36 exempt the student or other individual from the vaccination
37 requirements of this section for the stated period of time; or

38 (2) a written statement explaining how the administration of the
39 vaccine conflicts with the bona fide religious tenets or practices of
40 the student or other individual, or the parent or guardian of the
41 student or other individual, as appropriate; except that a general
42 philosophical or moral objection to the vaccination shall not be
43 sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

44 e. No person shall be required to receive a vaccination against
45 COVID-19 under this section if the person will have no in-person
46 presence on the premises of an institution of higher education.

1 2. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
2 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
3 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as shall be necessary to
4 implement the provisions of this act.

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill requires vaccination against coronavirus disease 2019
12 (COVID-19) as a condition of in-person enrollment in, in-person
13 attendance of classes or activities at, in-person employment by, or
14 providing or receiving in-person services at or through, a public or
15 private institution of higher education in this State. Beginning in
16 the 2022-2023 school year, institutions of higher education will be
17 prohibited from enrolling or retaining on an in-person basis any
18 student, or employing, retaining, or utilizing the services of any
19 other individual on an in-person basis, who has not submitted
20 acceptable evidence of vaccination against COVID-19.

21 Each institution of higher education in New Jersey will be
22 required to offer the COVID-19 vaccination to its students, staff,
23 employees, and in-person contracted workers through the
24 institution's student health services program or through a
25 contractual agreement with a community health care provider.

26 A student or other individual may be granted an exemption from
27 the COVID-19 vaccination requirements set forth in the bill if the
28 student or other individual submits:

29 1) a written statement issued by a licensed physician indicating
30 that the COVID-19 vaccine is medically contraindicated for a
31 specific period of time and the reasons for the medical
32 contraindication, which are to be valid medical reasons as
33 established by the Commissioner of Health. The medical
34 exemption will be valid for the period of time indicated in the
35 physician's written statement; or

36 2) a written statement explaining how the administration of the
37 vaccine conflicts with the bona fide religious tenets or practices of
38 the student or other individual, or the student's or individual's
39 parent or guardian, as appropriate; except that a general
40 philosophical or moral objection to the vaccination will not be
41 sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

42 No person will be required to receive a vaccination against
43 COVID-19 under the bill if the person will have no in-person
44 presence on the premises of an institution of higher education.