

ASSEMBLY, No. 5375

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Benson and Wimberly

SYNOPSIS

Requires local boards of education to employ certain number of staff with expertise in student mental health.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/8/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning school psychologists and licensed schools
2 counselors and supplementing chapter 27 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey 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. a. The board of education of a school district shall, at a
9 minimum, employ and assign on a full-time basis to each school
10 within the district at least two staff members with professional
11 expertise in student mental health. For each school with student
12 enrollment above 500, the board shall employ and assign on a full-
13 time basis additional staff members with professional expertise in
14 student mental health in a manner that is proportional to student
15 enrollment.

16 Persons eligible to fulfill this requirement shall include licensed
17 school counselors and school psychologists.

18 b. As used in this section:

19 “Licensed school counselor” means a person who holds a New
20 Jersey standard educational services certificate with a school
21 counselor endorsement.

22 “School psychologist” means a person who holds a New Jersey
23 standard educational services certificate with a school psychologist
24 endorsement.

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26 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply in
27 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill requires local boards of education to employ and assign
33 on a full-time basis to each school within the school district at least
34 two staff members with professional expertise in student mental
35 health. Persons eligible to fulfill this requirement include licensed
36 school counselors and school psychologists. The bill further
37 provides that, for each school with student enrollment above 500,
38 the board is required to employ and assign on a full-time basis
39 additional staff members with professional expertise in student
40 mental health in a manner that is proportional to student enrollment.