

SENATE, No. 585

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Doherty, Pennacchio, Durr and Steinhardt

SYNOPSIS

Provides that public school parent who objects to learning material or activity that parent considers harmful may receive voucher from school district to enroll student in nonpublic school.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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

1 **AN ACT** concerning vouchers for certain public school students and
2 supplementing chapter 35 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. In the event that the parent or guardian of a student enrolled
9 in a school district objects to a learning material or activity that is
10 part of the curriculum, on the basis that the material or activity is
11 harmful, withdraws his child from the school district and enrolls the
12 child in a nonpublic school, the resident school district shall provide
13 the parent or guardian with a voucher to support the tuition and fees
14 of the nonpublic school. The voucher shall equal 75 percent of the
15 resident school district's annual spending per pupil prorated based
16 upon the number of days remaining in the school year.

17 An objection to a learning material or activity on the basis that it
18 is harmful includes, but is not limited to, an objection that the
19 material or activity questions, violates, or conflicts with the parent
20 or guardian's belief or practice regarding sex, sexuality, sexual
21 orientation, gender identity or expression, conscience, ethics,
22 morality, or religion.

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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29 This bill provides that in the event that the parent or guardian of
30 a student enrolled in a school district objects to a learning material
31 or activity that is part of the curriculum, on the basis that the
32 material or activity is harmful, withdraws his child from the school
33 district and enrolls the child in a nonpublic school, the resident
34 school district is required to provide the parent or guardian with a
35 voucher to support the tuition and fees of the nonpublic school.
36 The voucher will equal 75 percent of the resident school district's
37 annual spending per pupil prorated based upon the number of days
38 remaining in the school year.

39 An objection to a learning material or activity on the basis that it
40 is harmful includes, but is not limited to, an objection that the
41 material or activity questions, violates, or conflicts with the parent
42 or guardian's belief or practice regarding sex, sexuality, sexual
43 orientation, gender identity or expression, conscience, ethics,
44 morality, or religion.