

**SENATE, No. 2439**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY**

**District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Limits the transportation costs of school districts sending students to county vocational school districts located outside the county of residence.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning county vocational school districts and pupil  
2 transportation and amending P.L.1990, c.52.

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

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7 1. Section 71 of P.L.1990, c.52 (C.18A:54-20.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 71. a. The board of education of each school district or regional  
10 school district in any county in which there is a county vocational  
11 school district shall send to any of the schools of the county  
12 vocational school district each pupil who resides in the school  
13 district or regional school district and who has applied for  
14 admission to and has been accepted for attendance at any of the  
15 schools of the county vocational school district. The board of  
16 education shall pay tuition for each of these pupils to the county  
17 vocational school district pursuant to subsection c. of this section.  
18 The provisions of this section shall not apply to the board of  
19 education of a school district or regional school district maintaining  
20 a vocational school or schools pursuant to article 2 of chapter 54 of  
21 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

22 b. The board of education of a county vocational school district  
23 shall receive pupils from districts without the county so far as their  
24 facilities may permit.

25 c. The board of education of a county vocational school district  
26 shall receive such funds as may be appropriated by the county  
27 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:54-29.2 and shall be entitled to collect and  
28 receive from the sending districts in which each pupil attending the  
29 vocational school resides, for the tuition of that pupil, except for a  
30 post-secondary vocational education pupil, a sum not to exceed the  
31 actual cost per pupil as determined for each vocational program  
32 classification, according to rules prescribed by the commissioner  
33 and approved by the State board. Whenever funds have been  
34 appropriated by the county, the county vocational school district  
35 may charge a fee in addition to tuition for any pupils who are not  
36 residents of the county. The fee shall not exceed the amount of the  
37 county's per pupil appropriation to the county vocational school  
38 district.

39 d. The tuition and nonresident fee, if any, shall be established  
40 not later than January 15 in advance of the school year by the board  
41 of education. The tuition for each program category shall be at the  
42 same rate per pupil for each sending district whether within or  
43 without the county, and 10% of the tuition amount and nonresident  
44 fee, if any, shall be paid on the first of each month from September

**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.**

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1 to June by or on behalf of the board of education of each sending  
2 district.

3 e. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1991, c.62).

4 f. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.18A:39-1 or any  
5 other provision of law to the contrary, the sending district of a pupil  
6 attending a school of a county vocational school district shall be  
7 responsible for the transportation of that pupil; provided that the per  
8 pupil cost of the lowest bid received does not exceed the amount  
9 determined pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1981, c.57 (C.18A:39-1a)  
10 in the case of transportation provided to a county vocational school  
11 district located outside the county in which the sending district is  
12 located. If the bid exceeds that cost then the parent, guardian or  
13 other person having legal custody of the pupil shall be eligible to  
14 receive the amount determined pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1981,  
15 c.57 (C.18A:39-1a) toward the cost of the transportation.

16 (cf: P.L.1991, c.62, s.24)

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18 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be first  
19 applicable in the 2018-2019 school year.

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STATEMENT

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24 Under current law a sending school district is responsible for the  
25 transportation costs of its resident pupils attending a school of a  
26 county vocational school district, whether it is the county vocational  
27 school district in the county in which the sending district is located  
28 or in another county. In the case of students attending a county  
29 vocational school district outside the county of residence, this bill  
30 would limit the amount for which the sending district would be  
31 responsible to the aid-in-lieu-of transportation amount set annually  
32 for students attending nonpublic schools. For the 2017-2018 school  
33 year the amount is \$1000. If a sending district is unable to provide  
34 transportation for that amount or less, the parent or guardian of the  
35 pupil would be eligible to receive the aid-in-lieu-of transportation  
36 amount toward the cost of the transportation.