

**SENATE, No. 2658**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2022

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA**  
**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires local boards of education to employ certain number of school psychologists.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning school psychologists and supplementing  
2 chapter 27 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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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. a. The board of education of a school district shall, at a  
8 minimum, employ and assign on a fulltime basis to each school  
9 within the school district at least one school psychologist. The  
10 maximum student to school psychologist ratio per school in a  
11 school district shall be 500:1.

12 b. A school district shall apply for any federal funds which  
13 may be available to implement, or to aid in implementing, the  
14 provisions of this section.

15 c. As used in this section, “school psychologist” means a  
16 person who holds a New Jersey standard educational services  
17 certificate with a school psychologist endorsement.

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply in  
20 the second full school year next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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25 This bill requires local boards of education to employ and assign  
26 on a fulltime basis to each school within the school district at least  
27 one school counselor. The bill also provides that the maximum  
28 student to school psychologist ratio per school in a school district  
29 will be 500:1.

30 The most recent recommendations of the National Association of  
31 School Psychologists (NASP) suggest that it is necessary to  
32 maintain a ratio of one school psychologist per 500 students in  
33 order to provide comprehensive school psychological services. The  
34 NASP estimates a national ratio of one school psychologist per  
35 1,211 students, with some states approaching a ratio of one school  
36 psychologist per 5,000 students. School psychologists are uniquely  
37 qualified educational services professionals who receive advanced  
38 graduate preparation that includes coursework and field experiences  
39 relevant to both psychology and education. It is vital that school  
40 districts make school psychologists available to their students to  
41 ensure that they receive the best direct support and interventions  
42 needed to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.