

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1864**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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:

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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.