

SENATE, No. 787

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Provides supplemental transportation aid to certain districts participating in the interdistrict public school choice program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning interdistrict public school choice transportation
2 aid and supplementing P.L.2010, c.65 (C.18A:36B-14 et seq.).

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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. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9 of P.L.2010,
8 c.65 (C.18A:36B-22) to the contrary, a choice district located in a
9 city of the second class, which district has been directed by the New
10 Jersey Supreme Court to engage in efforts to desegregate the
11 student population, shall be responsible for providing
12 transportation, including the organization of bus routes and bidding
13 for transportation services, or aid-in-lieu-of transportation, to an
14 elementary school choice pupil who lives more than two miles from
15 the choice district school of attendance and to a secondary school
16 choice pupil who lives more than two and one-half miles from the
17 choice district school of attendance, provided the choice district
18 school of attendance is not more than 20 miles from the residence
19 of the pupil.

20 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this
21 section, the sending district shall receive State aid for transportation
22 calculated pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-57)
23 for a student transported or receiving aid-in-lieu-of transportation
24 pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The sending district shall
25 pay directly to the choice district the State aid for transportation, or
26 aid-in-lieu-of transportation, received pursuant to this section for a
27 student transported pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

28 c. (1) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
29 contrary, the choice district responsible for transportation pursuant
30 to subsection a. of this section shall be eligible to receive
31 supplemental State aid for transportation when the total costs of
32 providing transportation, or aid-in-lieu of transportation, from the
33 sending districts to the choice district exceeds the amount of State
34 aid for transportation the sending district receives for those students
35 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

36 (2) A choice district shall be eligible to receive supplemental
37 State aid pursuant to the provisions of this subsection if the choice
38 district is able to demonstrate to the Commissioner of Education
39 that the bus routes utilized to transport pupils from sending districts
40 to the choice district utilize cost efficient methods, such as
41 centralized pick-ups and drop-offs and, to the extent possible, bus
42 routes that include students from multiple sending districts.

43 (3) The choice district seeking supplemental State aid for
44 transportation pursuant to this subsection shall annually report to
45 the Department of Education at the end of each school year the cost

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1 of providing transportation to students from sending districts that
2 exceeds the amount of transportation aid the choice district receives
3 from the sending district pursuant to subsection b. of this section.
4 The department shall reimburse the choice district for the additional
5 costs reported pursuant to this paragraph.

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7 2. This act shall take effect immediately.