

**SENATE, No. 988**

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

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DOE and DCF to establish online reporting systems for schools and child care centers to report lead testing results.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



S988 GREENSTEIN

1 AN ACT concerning lead in drinking water at schools and child care  
2 centers and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes  
3 and P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
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8 1. a. Within one year after the effective date of this act, the  
9 Department of Education shall establish an online reporting system  
10 that allows a school to submit the results of any tests it has  
11 conducted for lead in drinking water and other related information  
12 to the department electronically.

13 b. Within 90 days after the establishment of the online  
14 reporting system pursuant to subsection a. of this section, any  
15 school that was required by law, rule, or regulation, on or after July  
16 1, 2016, to test its drinking water for lead shall submit or resubmit  
17 its test results and other required information to the department via  
18 the online reporting system. The department shall compile the test  
19 results and other relevant information on its Internet website for  
20 access by the public in an easily-searchable format.  
21

22 2. a. Within one year after the effective date of this act, the  
23 Department of Children and Families shall establish an online  
24 reporting system that allows a child care center to submit the results  
25 of any tests it has conducted for lead in drinking water and other  
26 related information to the department electronically.

27 b. Within 90 days after the establishment of the online  
28 reporting system pursuant to subsection a. of this section, any child  
29 care center that was required by law, rule, or regulation, on or after  
30 January 1, 2017, to test its drinking water for lead shall submit or  
31 resubmit its test results and any other required information to the  
32 department via the online reporting system. The department shall  
33 compile the test results and other relevant information on its  
34 Internet website for access by the public in an easily-searchable  
35 format.  
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37 3. Within two years after the effective date of this act, the  
38 Department of Education and the Department of Children and  
39 Families, in consultation with the Department of Environmental  
40 Protection, shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor and,  
41 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the  
42 Legislature, outlining the extent of lead contamination in the  
43 drinking water of schools and child care centers, the associated  
44 need for assistance with remediation activities, and  
45 recommendations for how the State could assist schools and child  
46 care centers with remediating lead in drinking water. The  
47 Department of Education and the Department of Children and  
48 Families shall post the report on their respective Internet websites.

1       4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This bill would require the Department of Education (DOE) and  
7 the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to establish online  
8 reporting systems for schools and child care centers to report lead  
9 testing results.

10       In July 2016, the State Board of Education adopted regulations  
11 requiring every school in the State to test for lead in drinking water.  
12 Shortly thereafter, in January 2017, the Department of Children and  
13 Families adopted regulations requiring each child care facility in the  
14 State to test for lead in drinking water. While lead test results were  
15 required to be submitted to the respective departments and made  
16 available to children and parents, there is currently no centralized  
17 database for, or report on, this data available to the public and  
18 policy makers. Such a centralized database would allow policy  
19 makers and the public to better understand the extent of lead  
20 contamination in schools and child care centers in the State and  
21 allow policy makers to do the necessary analysis to effectuate  
22 remedial funding and technical assistance.

23       This bill would require the DOE and the DCF to establish online  
24 reporting systems for schools and childcare centers to report their  
25 lead testing results electronically. Under the bill, within 90 days  
26 after establishment of the databases, each school and childcare  
27 center that was required pursuant to law or regulation to test for  
28 lead would be required to submit or resubmit its test results and any  
29 other required information via the online reporting system. The  
30 DOE and DCF would be required to compile the test results on their  
31 respective Internet websites for access by the public. Finally, the  
32 bill would require both departments to prepare and submit a report  
33 to the Governor and the Legislature outlining the extent of lead  
34 contamination in the drinking water of schools and child care  
35 centers, the associated need for assistance with remediation  
36 activities, and recommendations for how the State can assist schools  
37 and child care centers with remediating lead in drinking water.

38       This bill stems from recommendations in the Joint Legislative  
39 Task Force on Drinking Water Infrastructure's final report, released  
40 in January 2018.