

**SENATE, No. 3447**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 17, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Special Education Transportation Task Force.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the Special Education Transportation Task  
2 Force.

3

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

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7 1. As used in this act, “school bus” means every motor vehicle  
8 operated by, or under contract with, a public or governmental  
9 agency, or religious or other charitable organization or corporation,  
10 or privately operated for compensation for the transportation of  
11 children to or from school for secular or religious education, which  
12 complies with the regulations of the Department of Education  
13 affecting school buses, including “School Vehicle Type I” and  
14 “School Vehicle Type II” as defined pursuant to R.S.39:1-1.

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16 2. a. There is established the Special Education Transportation  
17 Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to study and  
18 make recommendations on best practices for the transportation of  
19 students who receive special education and related services,  
20 including identifying and responding to medical and behavioral  
21 emergencies experienced by these students.

22 b. The task force shall consist of the following 18 members:

23 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee;

24 (2) the Director of the Office of Special Education within the  
25 Department of Education, or a designee;

26 (3) the Special Education Ombudsman, or a designee;

27 (4) the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or  
28 Developmental Disabilities and their Families, or a designee; and

29 (5) 14 public members appointed by the Governor, in  
30 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, who shall  
31 include the following:

32 (a) a representative from the New Jersey School Boards  
33 Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators,  
34 the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, and the  
35 SPAN Parent Advocacy Network;

36 (b) a nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist with special  
37 education experience;

38 (c) a physical therapist with experience in transportation safety  
39 specific to the physical requirements of various physical disability  
40 classifications;

41 (d) a behavior specialist with experience addressing the risks  
42 associated with autism or emotional regulation impairment  
43 classifications, and strategies to address those risks;

44 (e) an individual employed by a school district in the State as a  
45 director of special education services;

46 (f) two individuals who serve on child study teams at public  
47 schools in the State;

1 (g) two individuals who serve as bus aides on school buses that  
2 provide transportation to students who receive special education  
3 and related services; and

4 (h) two parents with children who have received or are receiving  
5 special education and related services that include transportation  
6 services.

7 c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled  
8 in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

9 d. The task force shall organize within 90 days of the date of  
10 enactment of this act. The task force shall select a chairperson and  
11 a vice-chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a  
12 secretary who need not be a member of the task force. A majority  
13 of the membership of the task force shall constitute a quorum for  
14 the transaction of task force business. The task force may meet and  
15 hold hearings at the place or places as it shall designate.

16 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,  
17 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
18 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the  
19 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task  
20 force for its purposes.

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22 3. a. The Department of Education shall provide such  
23 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such  
24 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.

25 b. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
26 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
27 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
28 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

29  
30 4. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and make  
31 recommendations as to best practices for the transportation of  
32 students who receive special education and related services. The  
33 task force shall also make recommendations as to appropriate  
34 policies and training of school staff and school bus staff that  
35 address preventing, identifying, and responding to medical and  
36 behavioral emergencies that occur while transporting students who  
37 receive special education and related services on a school bus. In  
38 making its recommendations, the task force shall:

39 (1) review best practices in other states;

40 (2) review current school transportation policies specific to  
41 students who receive special education and related services; and

42 (3) identify areas of concern for the transportation of these  
43 students, including those related to safety, access to necessary  
44 equipment, communication with parents and legal guardians, and  
45 staffing needs.

46 b. The recommendations described in subsection a. of this  
47 section may include proposals for specific statutory changes and  
48 methods to foster cooperation between parents and school districts

1 in providing appropriate transportation services to students who  
2 receive special education and related services.

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4 5. The task force shall issue a report of its recommendations to  
5 the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
6 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than 12 months after the  
7 organization of the task force.

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9 6. This act shall take effect immediately and expire upon the  
10 issuance of the report by the task force pursuant to section 5 of this  
11 act.

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#### STATEMENT

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16 This bill establishes the Special Education Transportation Task  
17 Force. The purpose of the task force is to study and make  
18 recommendations for best practices in transporting students who  
19 receive special education and related services, including preventing,  
20 identifying, and responding to medical and behavioral emergencies.

21 The task force is to consist of 18 members, including the  
22 Commissioner of Education, the Director of the Office of Special  
23 Education within Department of Education, the Special Education  
24 Ombudsman, the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or  
25 Developmental Disabilities and their Families, and 14 public  
26 members to be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the  
27 commissioner.

28 The bill directs the task force to study and make  
29 recommendations as to best practices for the transportation of  
30 students who receive special education and related services,  
31 including recommendations as to appropriate policies and training  
32 of school staff and school bus staff that address preventing,  
33 identifying, and responding to medical and behavioral emergencies  
34 that occur while transporting these students on a school bus. In  
35 undertaking its work under the provisions of the bill, the task force  
36 is to: (1) review best practices in other states; (2) review current  
37 school transportation policies specific to students who receive  
38 special education and related services; and (3) identify areas of  
39 concern for transportation of these students, including those related  
40 to safety, access to necessary equipment, communication with  
41 parents and legal guardians, and staffing needs.

42 Pursuant to the provisions of the bill, the task force is to issue a  
43 report of its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature no  
44 later than 12 months after the organization of the task force.