

SENATE, No. 4621

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO
District 25 (Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires board of education to award certain transportation contracts to most appropriate bidder; requires board of education to hold transportation meeting prior to awarding certain transportation contracts for students with disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning transporting students with disabilities and
2 supplementing chapter 39 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. As used in this act, “student with a disability with special
9 transportation requirements” means a student who is included in the
10 variable P2 of subsection a. of section 15 of P.L.2007, c.260
11 (C.18A:7F-57).

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13 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the “Public School
14 Contracts Law,” N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq., or any other law, rule, or
15 regulation to the contrary, a board of education entering into a
16 contract to provide transportation to a student with a disability with
17 special transportation requirements shall not be required to award
18 the contract to the lowest responsible bidder or vendor and shall
19 instead award the contract to the bidder or vendor whose bid,
20 conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most appropriate for
21 the student with a disability with special transportation
22 requirements and the board of education considering price, the
23 outcome of the transportation meeting held pursuant to section 3 of
24 this act, and other factors. A contract to provide transportation to a
25 student with a disability with special transportation requirements
26 shall otherwise be bid in accordance with N.J.S.18A:39-3, except
27 for the requirement to award the contract to the lowest responsible
28 bidder.

29
30 3. a. Upon first publicly advertising for a contract to provide
31 transportation to a student with a disability with special
32 transportation requirements and prior to awarding the contract, the
33 board of education shall arrange a transportation meeting between
34 the parent or guardian of the student, the bidder or vendor
35 submitting a bid for the contract, the student’s case manager, and
36 representatives from the school district, to discuss the transportation
37 needs of the student and ensure the bidder or vendor can adequately
38 perform the services necessary to transport the student in
39 accordance with the student’s individualized education program.

40 b. The board of education shall consider the outcome of the
41 transportation meeting held pursuant to subsection a. of this section
42 when awarding a contract to provide transportation to a student with
43 a disability with special transportation requirements and shall be
44 prohibited from awarding the contract to a bidder or vendor who
45 fails to demonstrate an ability to adequately perform the services
46 necessary to transport the student in accordance with the student’s
47 individualized education program.

1 4. This act shall take effect 180 days following the date of
2 enactment, except that the Commissioner of Education may take
3 any anticipatory administrative action, in advance of the effective
4 date, as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

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7 STATEMENT
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9 This bill requires a board of education to award certain
10 transportation contracts for students with disabilities to the most
11 appropriate bidder and requires the board of education to hold a
12 transportation meeting prior to awarding these contracts.

13 Under the bill, a board of education entering into a contract to
14 provide transportation to a student with a disability with special
15 transportation requirements is required to award the contract to the
16 bidder or vendor whose bid will be most appropriate for the student
17 with a disability with special transportation requirements and the
18 board of education considering price, the outcomes of the
19 transportation meeting required by the bill, and other factors. This
20 differs from current State law, which generally requires school
21 transportation contracts to be awarded to the lowest responsible
22 bidder.

23 Additionally, the bill requires a board of education to, prior to
24 awarding contracts for the transportation of a student with a
25 disability with special transportation requirements, arrange a
26 transportation meeting with the parent or guardian of the student.
27 The meeting would involve the parent or guardian, the bidder or
28 vendor submitting bids on the contract, the student's case manager,
29 and representatives from the school district, to discuss the
30 transportation needs of the student and ensure the bidder or vendor
31 can adequately perform the services necessary to transport the
32 student in accordance with the student's individualized education
33 program. The board of education is required to consider the
34 outcome of the transportation meeting when awarding the
35 transportation contract. The board is prohibited from awarding the
36 contract to a bidder or vendor who fails to demonstrate an ability to
37 adequately perform the services necessary to transport the student.