

SENATE, No. 4684

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE
District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires youth serving organization to adopt and implement “Air Quality Participation Policy” established by Commissioner of Health.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning youth serving organizations and supplementing
2 Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. As used in this section, “youth serving organization”
8 means a public or private organization, association, corporation,
9 partnership, governmental entity, nonprofit organization, camp
10 operator, recreational program, or any other entity that organizes,
11 conducts, sponsors, or supervises organized outdoor activities for
12 individuals 18 years of age or under in this State.

13 b. The Commissioner of Health shall establish an “Air Quality
14 Participation Policy” governing the conduct of all youth serving
15 organizations’ organized outdoor activities during periods of
16 unhealthy air quality.

17 c. The policy established pursuant to subsection b. of this
18 section shall require, at minimum, that any organized outdoor
19 activity involving individuals 18 years of age or under be modified
20 or canceled whenever the Air Quality Index, established by the
21 United States Environmental Protection Agency, is 151 or higher.

22 d. The policy established pursuant to subsection b. of this
23 section shall include guidelines for those responsible for, or sharing
24 duties related to, making decisions concerning the implementation
25 of modifications or cancellation of organized outdoor activities
26 based on the presence of unhealthy air quality.

27 e. A youth serving organization shall adopt and implement the
28 “Air Quality Participation Policy” established by the Commissioner
29 of Health pursuant to subsection b. of this section, and any rules and
30 regulations adopted pursuant to this act.

31 f. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the
32 Department of Environmental Protection, shall adopt rules and
33 regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
34 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as the commissioner deems
35 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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37 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
38 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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43 This bill requires youth serving organizations to adopt and
44 implement the “Air Quality Participation Policy” established by the
45 Commissioner of Health.

46 Under the bill, the term “youth serving organization” means a
47 public or private organization, association, corporation, partnership,
48 governmental entity, nonprofit organization, camp operator,

1 recreational program, or any other entity that organizes, conducts,
2 sponsors, or supervises organized outdoor activities for individuals
3 18 years of age or under in this State.

4 The bill requires the Commissioner of Health to establish an “Air
5 Quality Participation Policy” governing the conduct of all youth
6 serving organizations’ organized outdoor activities during periods
7 of unhealthy air quality.

8 Under the bill, the policy established by the Commissioner of
9 Health is to require that any organized outdoor activity involving
10 individuals 18 years of age or under be modified or canceled
11 whenever the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 151 or higher. The AQI is
12 a standardized scale developed by the United States Environmental
13 Protection Agency to communicate how clean or polluted the air is
14 and the potential health effects associated with current or forecasted
15 air quality. Additionally, the policy is to include guidelines for
16 those responsible for, or sharing duties related to, making decisions
17 concerning the implementation of modifications or cancellation of
18 organized outdoor activities based on the presence of unhealthy air
19 quality.

20 This bill requires youth serving organizations to adopt and
21 implement the “Air Quality Participation Policy” established by the
22 Commissioner of Health and any rules and regulations adopted
23 pursuant to this bill.