

SENATE, No. 1284

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes County-Based School Security Pilot Program in DOE; appropriates \$15 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee with technical review.



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1 AN ACT establishing the County-Based School Security Pilot
2 Program, supplementing chapter 41 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. As used in this act:

9 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education.

10 "Pilot county" means Essex, Mercer, and Camden counties.

11 "Pilot program" means the "County-Based School Security Pilot
12 Program," established pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

13 b. There is established in the Department of Education a three-
14 year "County-Based School Security Pilot Program," which shall
15 establish county-based mental health services for public school
16 students and provide security infrastructure to public schools. The
17 pilot program shall be established in the counties of Essex, Mercer,
18 and Camden.

19 c. The commissioner shall work in collaboration with the
20 Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Children
21 and Families, and the Director of the State Office of Emergency
22 Management in the Division of State Police in the Department of
23 Law and Public Safety to implement the pilot program which shall
24 include, but not be limited to:

25 (1) a county-based mental health program available to students
26 residing in a pilot county and attending a public school that
27 incorporates the following: individual and group clinical mental
28 health services; referrals to community-based mental health care
29 providers; evidence-based interventions; mental health screenings;
30 and crisis intervention; and

31 (2) additional security supports for school districts within a pilot
32 county including, but not limited to, expanded access to training for
33 active shooter scenarios; bullet-resistant mobile ballistic shields;
34 and other protective equipment as deemed necessary by the
35 commissioner.

36 d. In selecting school districts to receive additional security
37 supports pursuant to subsection c. of this section, the commissioner
38 shall consider the security needs of the district as reflected in the
39 data reported in the commissioner's annual report on violence,
40 vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the school
41 district, as required pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1982, c.163
42 (C.18A:17-48).
43

44 2. The commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and
45 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
46 (C.52:14-19.1), not more than one year after the implementation of
47 the pilot program, and annually thereafter for a total of three years.
48 The report shall contain information on the implementation of the

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1 pilot program, an evaluation of the mental health services available
2 to students in a pilot county, and the recommendations of the
3 commissioner on the advisability of continuing, expanding, or
4 modifying the program.

5

6 3. There is appropriated \$15 million from the General Fund to
7 the Department of Education to implement the provisions of section
8 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
9 bill).

10

11 4. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
12 following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
13 Education may take anticipatory administrative action in advance
14 thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.