

## 214th Legislature (By Subject Matter)

### Progress Key:

I: Introduced

C: Referred to Committee

2R: Second reading (bill is reported to house floor and may be amended on the floor. It is not eligible for a vote until the third reading.

P: Passed

### ★ Administrative

#### **A-2464/S-1783** (Burzichelli/Oroho)

Requires all State agency rules be published in NJ Register, and prohibits use of regulatory guidance documents except under certain circumstances.

#### Progress:

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

#### **A-2722/S-2666** (Burzichelli/Oroho)

Modifies process for contested case hearings by OAL with regard to telephone and video conferences, delegation of final decision authority, oral decisions, checklist decisions, electronic filings, and settlements.

#### Description:

Provides that an administrative law judge (ALJ) may:

- 1) use pre-hearing conferences, and consider motions and hear witness testimony by means of telephone or video conference calls;
- 2) issue oral decisions unless a party requests a written decision; and
- 3) issue decisions in the form of a checklist.

Also authorizes the heads of State agencies to issue an order that deems a decision adopted, immediately upon filing with the agency. Additionally, provides that the decision of an

ALJ will be the final decision in all contested cases from the Department of Education, among other departments.

The duties of the Director and Chief ALJ are also expanded.

#### Progress:

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA has concerns with this legislation as drafted and has successfully sought amendment.**

#### **A-2922/S-2607** (Burzichelli/Oroho)

Revises “Administrative Procedure Act” concerning conflicts between rules of different State agencies.

#### Description:

Revises the “Administrative Procedure Act,” to establish two procedures by which conflicts or inconsistencies between rules of different agencies can be resolved.

1) Requires an agency, prior to adoption of a law or rule, to determine whether any other agency regulates the activity or has concurrent or conflicting jurisdiction over any aspect of the subject matter. If a conflict or concurrent jurisdiction is found, the agencies must work together to resolve a conflict. If a conflict among agencies cannot be resolved, the agency considering the proposal would seek an administrative law judge (ALJ) determination or other personnel would conduct an arbitration, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution.

2) Also establishes a procedure whereby an interested or affected party or agency may petition the OAL director for resolution of an alleged conflict or inconsistency among adopted rules of different agencies.

#### Progress:

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

### ★ Attendance

**A-869/S-2720** (Puo/Cunningham) Raises age requirement of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18 years old.

#### Progress:

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

#### **A-2200/S-2016** (Johnson/Beach)

Permits a child whose parent or guardian is ordered into active military service to remain enrolled in the school district where the child’s parent or guardian resided prior to active military service.

#### Description:

Permits a child whose parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and who has been ordered into active military service in a time of war or national emergency to remain enrolled in the school district.

A school district would not be responsible for providing transportation for the child if the child lives outside of the district.

Following the return of the child’s parent or guardian from active military service, the child’s eligibility to remain enrolled in the school district would cease at the end of the school year.

#### Progress:

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**A-458 (Voss)**

Permits a child who moves out of a school district due to a family crisis to remain enrolled in that district until the end of the school year.

**Description:**

Permits a child who moves out of district due to domestic violence, abuse, or other family crisis to have the option of remaining enrolled in district to the end of the year. If a child remains in district, the State is responsible for picking up tuition and transportation costs.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**★ Consolidation**

**A-2622/S-450 (Chivikula/Smith)**

Provides for submission to voters in each county a binding referendum on the establishment of a county administrative school district to govern and operate all public schools in the county.

**Description:**

Permits the voters to establish a county school board, with a chief school administrator appointed by the Governor.

A board of school estimate would develop a county administrative school district budget and would determine the amount of school taxes necessary for the operation of the district.

The law would allow local boards of education to remain in place but these boards would only be advisory. Students would remain in the school in which they were enrolled prior to the establishment of the county administrative school district.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

**A-2623/S-2261 (Chivikula/Smith) -**

Establishes governance structure for county administrative school districts.

**Description:**

Provides a public school governance structure for counties in which the voters approve the establishment of a county administrative school district, operated under the supervision of a board of education of the county administrative school district (“county

board”) and administered by a chief school administrator of the county administrative school district.

Local boards of education in the county would cede authority to govern the public schools within their jurisdiction to the county board, though they would continue to exist in an advisory capacity. The bill would also abolish local district-level administrative or supervisory personnel positions, including the district superintendent of schools. The county board would instead appoint a district supervisor for each municipality in the county to oversee operations of the public schools located in the municipality and perform other duties as the county board may prescribe. The district supervisor would work under the supervision of the chief school administrator.

The county board would consist of the executive county superintendent of schools and four members appointed by the chief elected executive officer of the county, or the director of the board of chosen freeholders, with the advice and consent of that board.

The position of chief school administrator would be appointed by contract by the Governor for a term of no fewer than three nor more than five years. An appropriate certificate, as prescribed by the State board, would be required for the position. The chief school administrator would have general supervision over all aspects of the county administrative school district.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

**S-2025/A-2961 (Kyrillos/Handlin)**

Authorizes executive county superintendent of schools (ECS) to require implementation of shared services arrangements and to approve school district collective negotiations agreements prior to execution of agreement.

**Description:**

Directs each ECS to require collaboration among school districts in expanding the implementation of shared services among school districts within the county and outside of the county. Also permits the ECS to require a district to enter into a shared services arrangement with another district, a municipality, the county, or other unit of local government within that county for the provision of administrative,

business, purchasing, public or nonpublic pupil transportation, or other school district service if the arrangement will result in cost savings for the districts or other units of local government involved.

In addition, requires the ECS to review and approve all collective negotiations agreements in school districts within the county prior to the execution of those contracts. The ECS may not approve a collective negotiations agreement if it fails to comply with the standards or includes salary, wages, and other forms of compensation that would cause the school district to exceed its tax levy growth limitation or prohibits the subcontracting of school district services.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

**S-2794/A-3918 (Sweeney)**

Encourages local unit sharing of services; makes appropriations.

**Description:**

Expands the authority of the Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization, and Consolidation Commission (LUARCC) to recommend specific consolidations and mergers under current law. In addition, LUARCC could recommend or order the execution of specific shared service agreement.

LUARCC would be required to estimate the savings that would result from implementation of the proposed consolidation or sharing of services. Local units, including school boards, could contest LUARCC’s estimate of savings by appeal to the Commissioner of Community Affairs.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA has concerns with this legislation as drafted.**

**★ Curriculum**

**A-2920/S-2114 (Wolfe/Ciesla)**

Directs the Department of Education to develop a school district dating violence policy and requires school districts to provide dating violence education in the health curriculum.

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education to establish a task force to develop a policy

to prevent and address dating violence at school. Requires school districts to incorporate age appropriate dating violence education into the health education curriculum.

School districts would be required to implement either the policy developed by the department or a policy developed by the district. Notice of the policy must be provided via:

- 1) any district publication setting forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for schools within the district; and
- 2) in any student handbook.

The policy must contain:

- a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
- dating violence reporting procedures;
- guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating violence;
- discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating violence;
- warning signs of dating violence; and
- information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and community resources available to address dating violence.

Also requires the department to recommend educational resources on dating violence and post these materials on its website.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**This legislation currently awaits review by the Governor.**

**NJPSA had concerns with this legislation as drafted and successfully sought amendment.**

**S-495** (Girgenti)

Requires inclusion of certain types of drugs in public school instructional programs on nature of drugs and repeals inoperative statutes.

**Description:**

Requires that date-rape and designer drugs be included in the instructional programs on the nature of drugs as part of the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

## ★ Elections

**A-476/S-205** (Voss/Whelan)

Requires simple majority for proposal to increase school tax levy above tax levy growth limit.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**A-2143/S-1312** (Turner/DeAngelo)

Provides for the election of school board members at November general election and eliminates vote on school budgets except for separate proposals to spend above cap which will also occur at general election.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

## ★ Ethics

**A-646/S-1925** (Moriarty/Norcross)

Requires the adoption of nepotism policies by school districts and charter schools.

**Description:**

Directs boards of education of school districts, board of trustees of charter schools, and county vocational school districts to adopt and implement a nepotism policy, as a condition for the receipt of State aid. The nepotism policy would be required to include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- 1) a provision prohibiting any relative of a school board member or chief school administrator, school business administrator, school board attorney, or director of personnel from being employed in any office or position in the district unless the individual is already an employee at the time the individual becomes a board member;
- 2) a provision prohibiting a chief school administrator from recommending to the school board any relative of a school board member or chief school administrator, school business administrator, school board attorney, or director of personnel;
- 3) a provision prohibiting a district administrator from exercising authority, supervision, or control over a relative;
- 4) a provision prohibiting a district administrator who has a relative who is

a member of the bargaining unit from discussing or voting on the proposed collective bargaining agreement with that unit or from participating in any way in negotiations; and

5) a provision prohibiting a district administrator who has a relative who is a member of the same Statewide union in another district from participating in any way in negotiations prior to the school board attaining a tentative memorandum of agreement with the bargaining unit.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

## ★ Facilities

**S-2194/A-3621/A-3782** (Turner/ Quijano/Wagner)

The “Child Safe Playing Fields Act”; restricts use of lawn care pesticides at schools, child care centers and recreational fields.

**Description:**

Prohibits the use of lawn care pesticides on the grounds of any school which enrolls students from preschool through grade five, except as an emergency response to an immediate threat to human health, as determined by school officials, in consultation with the local health officer. Additionally prohibits the use of lawn care pesticides on playgrounds and recreational fields.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA has concerns with this legislation as drafted and is seeking amendment.**

## ★ Human Resources

**A-1019/S-438** (Spencer/Turner)

Requires criminal history record check of school district volunteers.

**Description:**

Requires that an individual who volunteers to provide services on an unpaid basis in a public school district (as defined by the Commissioner of Education), when those services involve regular contact with students, must undergo a criminal history record check in accordance with the same standards and procedures used to conduct such checks on paid school district

employees. The volunteer would bear the cost of the check.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation as amended.**

**A-406/S-1070** (Diegnan/Turner)

Requires that school districts use a model contract developed by the Commissioner of Education when employing a superintendent of schools.

**Description:**

Requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the New Jersey School Boards Association and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, to develop a model employment contract for superintendents of schools. The contract would address salary, health insurance, pension benefits, sick days, and vacation leave considerations. Emoluments could not exceed those of similarly credentialed and experienced superintendents in other districts in the region with similar enrollment, academic achievement levels and challenges, and grade span.

School districts would be required to use the model contract for the employment of a superintendent of schools. The mandated model employment contract could only be altered by the school district and prospective superintendent of schools only with the prior approval of the commissioner.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-1730/A-2478** (Norcross/Moriarty)

Requires certain public officers and employees to reside in State.

**Description:**

Requires that public employees obtain a principal residence in New Jersey within one year of beginning their public service. The residency requirement would not apply to:

- 1) individuals whose position requires the employee to spend the majority of his or her working hours outside of the State;
- 2) certain faculty and administrative staff of State colleges, universities, and higher educational institutions;
- 3) Those currently employed who do not presently have his or her principal

residence in this State if he/she continues to hold office, employment, or position without a break in public service of greater than seven days;

Individuals could request an exemption on the basis of "critical need or hardship" from a three-member committee.

Decisions on whether to approve a hardship application would require a majority vote of the three-member committee within 30 days of the request, after which the request is deemed denied.

**Progress:**

House1: I C 2R P

House1: C 2R P G

The Governor conditionally vetoed this legislation. His conditional veto would:

- Expand the committee which reviews hardship requests to five; and
- Delay the effective date of the legislation for four (4) months.

The Legislature is in the process of approving the Governor's conditional veto.

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-1835/A-2802** (Bateman/DiCicco)

Expands type of school bus driver required to undergo DOE criminal record check process and requires matching of data files to ensure school bus drivers remain qualified pursuant to records maintained by DOE and MVC.

**Description:**

Includes bus drivers who are employed by non-public schools, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Law and Public Safety, or a school bus contractor holding a contract with one of these entities within the current criminal background check requirement.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**S-613/A-1342** (Kean/Angelini)

Restricts the participation of school and county college employees in the search for and handling of explosive devices.

**Description:**

Forbids employees of public schools and county colleges from being required to search for, handle or detonate an explosive device. In addition, they would not be required to supervise, or be present during, the

search for, handling or detonation of an explosive device.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

★ **Juvenile Justice**

**A-1561/S-2700** (Lampitt/Beach)

Creates diversionary program for juveniles who are criminally charged for "sexting" or posting sexual images.

**Description:**

Requires the Attorney General and Administrative Office of the Courts to establish an educational program as an alternative to prosecution for certain juveniles who are charged with a criminal offense for posting sexually suggestive or sexually explicit photographs, or who engage in the behavior commonly known as "sexting," in which these pictures are transmitted via cell phones.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**A-973/S-1564** (Johnson/Turner)

Creates Juvenile Transfer Task Force.

**Description:**

Establishes a Juvenile Transfer Task Force whose purpose is to study, evaluate, and develop recommendations concerning the transfer of juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

The legislation was vetoed by the Governor. That veto may be overcome by a 2/3 affirmative vote by the Legislature.

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

★ **Negotiations**

**S-1940/A-2772** (Van Drew/Albano)

Requires that the monetary equivalent of any wage or benefit concession agreed to by a collective bargaining unit be used by the school district to offset any reduction in force initiated for economic reasons.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

This legislation awaits the Governor’s signature.

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-2310/A-2383** (Doherty/O’Scanlon) Implements Governor’s “Tool Kit” proposals for public employee collective bargaining.

**Description:**

Imposes a 2.0 percent cap on interest arbitration awards and collective negotiations agreements on “economic issues.” Economic issues are defined as wages, salaries, hours in relation to earnings, and other forms of compensation, such as paid vacation, paid holidays, health and medical insurance, and other economic benefits accruing to the employees represented by the affected employee organization.

Provides that PERC randomly select three arbitrators for the disputing parties to consider. If they fail to agree on an arbitrator within 10 days, PERC is to assign the arbitrator.

Adopts rules concerning ethical standards and political activities. Implements a fee schedule and limitation on the fees imposed for cancellation of proceedings. Also requires parties to share equally in the costs of any grievance/arbitration.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

★ **Pensions and Benefits**

**A-3796/S-2705** (O’Scanlon/Pennachio) Makes changes to retirement benefits for members of the State-administered retirement systems and eliminates future COLAs.

**Description:**

For members with fewer than 25 years of service and who have not reached normal retirement age:

- 1) Changes normal retirement age to 65, up from the current 60 (for most members) or 62 (for members enrolled in the pension system since Nov. 2, 2008).
- 2) Requires 30 years of service before retirement eligibility, unless an

employee has reached the normal retirement age of 65.

3) Changes the “early” retirement age to 65, the same as the normal retirement age. Members who choose to retire with 30 or more years of service will pay a penalty of 0.25% per month (3% per year) for each month under age 65.

4) Final average salary would be calculated on the 5 highest years of salary, rather than the current 3 years.

**All members:**

1) Future service accruals would be calculated at n/65, rather than the current n/55.

2) All employees would pay 8.5% (an additional 3% of salary as a pension contribution, in addition to the current 5.5%).

**Disability Retirement**

1) Eliminates accidental disability retirements (currently 72.7% of the member’s salary at time of accident) and replaces it with a “work related” disability retirement of 40% of final average salary (FAS).

2) Reduces ordinary disability retirement from 43.6% of FAS to 40% of FAS.

3) Repeals disability insurance for members enrolled in the pension system after May 22, 2010 and replaces it with ordinary and “work related” disability retirements, as defined above.

**Retirees (including COLA)**

Eliminates the cost of living adjustment (COLA) going forward. Current retirees would stay at their current COLA level, with no future increases. Future retirees would have no COLA in retirement.

Retirees returning to public employment would be required to terminate all public employment for a period of not less than six months while receiving a retirement allowance to be “bona fide.” If a retirement is bona fide, a public employer may hire a retiree without a reenrollment requirement.

**State Payment and Unfunded Liability**

Requires the state to make larger annual payments toward the unfunded accrued liability each year.

Changes the amortization methodology from a percentage of pay schedules to a level dollar amount each year to result in the earlier retirement of the unfunded liability of the pension systems. Currently, member

contributions to those retirement system are credited and annuitized at an interest rate that exceeds current market rates. Also provides that member contributions to these systems would be credited with 4% interest.

Would be effective 120 days after enactment.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

**S-351/A-193** (Oroho/Chiusano) Expands scope of review of Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission.

**Description:**

Requires the Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission to review all legislation relating to the pension and health care plans or programs for State and other public employees by including bills that: affect the financing, procedures, or operations of the pension or health care plans or programs, including all defined benefit retirement plans or systems, defined contribution retirement plans or programs, or deferred compensation or other individual retirement account-type plans; or mandate or permit public entities to pay for employee health care benefits in active service or in retirement.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-358/A-219** (Weinberg/Quigley) Requires managed care plans, SHBP, and SEHBP to provide for reasonable accommodation in accessing providers for persons with disabilities.

**Description:**

Permits a patient with a physical disability who is covered by a managed care plan to receive benefits at the in-network level for health care services provided by an out-of-network health care provider where there is no in-network provider who is: reasonably proximate to the covered person’s place of residence; is qualified by area of professional specialty or practice to provide those health care services and has significant experience in treating the particular physical disability; or whose physical accommodations afford reasonably convenient access to a person

with the same degree of physical disability as that which the covered person has.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-439/A-2991** (Turner/Gusciora)

Requires spousal consent to election of certain pension payout options under TPAF, JRS and PERS.

**Description:**

Requires that whenever a member of TPAF, JRS or PERS elects a retirement benefit which is payable for the life of the member only and terminating at death, without payment of any kind to the spouse, or any other payout option that provides a benefit to the member's spouse that is less than one-half of the member's retirement allowance to be continued throughout the life of the spouse, the election will not take effect unless:

1) the spouse of the member consents in writing to such election;

2) such election designates a beneficiary or an option neither of which may be changed without spousal consent, or the consent of the spouse expressly permits designations by the member without any requirement of further consent by the spouse; and

3) the spouse's consent acknowledges the effect of such election and is witnessed by a representative of the Division of Pensions and Benefits or a notary public. Consent will not be required if it is established to the satisfaction of the retirement system that the consent may not be obtained because there is no spouse, the spouse cannot be located, or there are such other circumstances as the Division of Pensions and Benefits may prescribe by regulations.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation**

**S-2100/A-2499** (Sweeney/Moriarty)

Prohibits new employees of certain organizations from enrolling in State-administered retirement system or health care plan of public employer.

**Description:**

Eliminates enrollment and eligibility for inclusion, in the state retirement or health benefits plan, any new employee

or employee with less than five years of service credits from the following organizations: the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; the New Jersey Association of Counties; the New Jersey School Boards Association; any school board insurance group; any county college joint insurance group; any county or municipal joint insurance fund; and any corporation designated to manage a special improvement district established by municipal ordinance.

Also eliminates the eligibility of such officers and employees for health care benefits coverage through the State Health Benefits Program or through any health care benefits plan or program provided by the State or a political subdivision of the State. The eligibility for coverage for all current officers and employees is terminated 24 months after the bill's effective date.

In addition, prohibits any officer or employee of a nonprofit organization that is an educational foundation, or substantially similar entity, created by or on behalf of an institution of higher education in this State for the purpose of receiving donations, from becoming a member of the PERS on the basis of that employment.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**S-2220/A-3392/A-3211** (Sarlo/Casagrande/Lampitt)

Limits certain unused sick leave pay and vacation leave carry-forward for school and local employees; limits sick leave use by new public employees before retirement.

**Description:**

Amends current law to limit the payment of supplemental compensation at retirement for accumulated unused sick leave at \$15,000, or if an employee has more than \$15,000, the amount accumulated at the end of the current collective bargaining agreement.

Also limits the carrying-forward of vacation leave to one year's leave but grandfathers any accrued vacation time beyond a year for current employees.

Imposes limits on the use of sick leave by a State, local, or board of education employee in the twelve months before retirement for employees who commence

employment with an individual employer on or after the bill's effective date, by prohibiting the use of six or more consecutive days of accumulated sick leave, without medical necessity verified in writing by a physician, in the twelve months prior to retirement in anticipation of that retirement. The employer may require the officer or employee to submit to an examination by a physician selected by the employer to verify the medical necessity. An employer must:

1) impose a fine and issue a reprimand against the officer or employee found to be in violation of this prohibition, with the fine to be an amount equivalent to one and one-half times the daily rate of compensation for each day of violation, or

2) for a subsequent violation of the prohibition, deduct a number of sick leave days equivalent to the number found to have been used in violation of this prohibition from the number of unused accumulated sick leave credited on the effective date of retirement upon which supplemental compensation, if any, for the officer or employee at the time of retirement is calculated, or

3) both.

**Progress:**

Assembly: I C 2R P

Senate: C 2R P

The Governor conditionally vetoed this legislation. His amendments would:

- Prohibit any accumulation of sick days after the effective date of the act. Employees would be able to accumulate sick days, but those days could be used only for a "proper medical purpose, not as a retirement benefit";

- Require that any sick or vacation leave accrued prior to the effective date of the act be used before sick leave accrued after;

- Include all current employees, regardless of whether they are within twelve (12) months of retirement, within the population of individuals who would be required to present a doctors note for an absence of six (6) days or more; and

- Suspend payment for any employee under indictment for a crime that involves or touches his or her office. If convicted of that crime, any supplemental compensation would be forfeited.

The Legislature has yet to act on his recommended changes.

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

### S-2696 (Sweeney)

Makes various changes to PERS, TPAF, PFRS, SPRS, JRS including to board membership, control of investments, adjustments to member contribution, adjustments to benefits, and benefit factor for TPAF and PERS.

#### Description:

#### Boards

Eliminates the election of plan trustees. Rather, each pension system, including PERS and TPAF, would have an appointed Board of Trustees, made up of equal numbers of labor and management appointees (In the private sector, this is known as the Taft-Hartley model). Those boards would:

- Have the authority to set benefit levels for the plan at an additional cost to members or adjust employee contribution rates (see below);
- Have power to invest/reinvest money, currently under the Division of Investment; and
- Set contribution levels annually, based on actuarial determinations sufficient to pay the employees' share (50%) of the normal cost for the chosen benefits, upon the advice of the Division of Pensions and Benefits, the State Treasurer, and the actuary of the system.

The boards would have the option to remove their funds from state management and make their own investment choices.

#### Contribution

Ties the member's rate of contribution rate to the health of the fund. Change members contributions to:

- Percentage of the normal cost contribution plus;
- Percentage of current and future unfunded liability.
- Employees would be liable for both past and future underfunding due to market losses.
- Employees might see a potentially large and unlimited required annual contribution.

Employees that were hired before May, 2010 would have the option of keeping the n/55 "pension boost," provided they contribute more, as calculated by an actuary.

#### Calculation

Average Salary would not be changed for those employees hired before May 2010

but the multiplier (n/55 versus n/60) would change unless the employees agree to contribute an additional amount, as calculated by an actuary. This amount could be less than 50 percent of the benefit cost.

#### Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

COLA would be eliminated for employees with fewer than 5 years of service. Employees with more than 5 years of service would be given the option to keep an annual COLA provided they contribute an additional amount, as calculated by an actuary. Current retirees would continue to receive a COLA on the current schedule.

#### State Responsibility

The State's annual payments would be made a contractual obligation.

Would take effect 120 days after enactment, except that the provisions concerning the transfer of authority over investment of pension system assets would take effect one year after enactment.

#### Progress:

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

#### NJPSA has serious concerns with the legislation as drafted.

### S-3718 (Sweeney)

Establishes certain criteria for public employee health care benefits plans; requires premium percentage-based employee contribution.

#### Description:

Requires public employees receiving health care benefits coverage through the School Employees Health Benefit Program (SEHBP), to contribute toward their employer's cost of providing health care benefits coverage. Employees would pay a percentage of their health care premium on a sliding scale (see charts below).

The amount payable by any employee through the withholding of the contribution, for health care benefits coverage could not be less than 1.5 percent of compensation.

Contribution requirements in retirement would apply to those with less than 25 or more years of service credit in a State- or locally-administered retirement system on the effective date of the bill.

Additional plan requirements include:

- promoting the use of generic drugs by employees and their dependents;
- require that employees participate in annual personal health appraisals, and health and wellness plans, as established by the commission, and also requires the creation of premium incentive programs to ensure that employees will receive financial incentives when they, and their dependents, maintain a healthy lifestyle;
- require the commission to utilize the services of a pharmacy benefits manager for prescription drug coverage;
- require the program to offer to employees of the State and participating employers a choice of at least five different plans or levels of coverage and out of pocket costs, each of which must include dependent coverage.

No units of local government or boards of education would be permitted to participate under the SEHBP if they are not already doing so.

Each school board would be required to create an Employee Benefits Quality, Cost and Delivery Committee in order to develop the components of its health care benefits coverage. The members of the committee would include local officials and union representatives. It would be required to work cooperatively in evaluating health care benefits vendors and options for employee health care benefits coverage, design and develop the options for employee health care benefits coverage; and select the vendors best able to provide that coverage at the lowest cost to the employer, in accordance with applicable contracting laws. The committee must also negotiate contracts for health care benefits coverage with the selected vendors on behalf of the employer and recommend contracts for approval by the local unit, and devise strategies for continued safety, health and wellness of the employer's workforce.

In addition, every local unit employer offering health care benefits coverage to its employees would annually validate the eligibility of each full-time employee's dependents covered under the employee's health care benefits coverage to ensure that only eligible dependents are enrolled for health care benefits coverage.

The plan would be phased-in over a seven-year period for those enrolled in a family plan, and four years for employees who receive single coverage. The phase-

in would begin after the current contract expires, and a new one is negotiated.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA has serious concerns with the legislation as drafted.**

Sweeney Plan – Family Coverage (Based on current total cost of \$19,000 per year)					
Annual Earnings	0– \$29,999	\$30,000– \$49,999	\$50,000– \$74,999	\$75,000– \$99,999	\$100,000 and over
Employee Earns	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$120,000
Employee Now Pays	\$300	\$600	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,800
Year 1	2% \$380	4% \$760	7% \$1,330	9% \$1,710	12% \$2,280
Year 2	3% \$570	6% \$1,140	9% \$1,710	12% \$2,280	15% \$2,850
Year 3	4% \$760	8% \$1,520	11% \$2,090	15% \$2,660	18% \$3,420
Year 4	6% \$1,140	10% \$1,900	13% \$2,470	18% \$3,420	21% \$3,990
Year 5	8% \$1,520	12% \$2,280	15% \$2,850	21% \$3,990	24% \$4,560
Year 6	10% \$1,900	14% \$2,660	17% \$3,230	24% \$4,560	27% \$5,130
Year 7	12% \$2,280	18% \$3,420	19% \$3,610	27% \$5,130	30% \$5,700

Sweeney Plan – Single Coverage (Based on current total cost of \$7,800 per year)					
Annual Earnings	0– \$29,999	\$30,000– \$49,999	\$50,000– \$74,999	\$75,000– \$99,999	\$100,000 and over
Employee Earns	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$120,000
Employee Now Pays	\$300	\$600	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,800
Year 1	6% \$468	10% \$780	13% \$1,014	18% \$1,404	21% \$1,800*
Year 2	8% \$600	12% \$900	15% \$1,125	21% \$1,638	24% \$1,872
Year 3	10% \$780	14% \$1,092	17% \$1,275	24% \$1,872	27% \$2,106
Year 4	12% \$900	16% \$1,248	19% \$1,482	27% \$2,106	30% \$2,340

\* – Under legislation, contributions would equal the percentage of premium listed for each year on the guide, or 1.5% of salary, whichever is greater. Actual rates will vary by individual.

★ **Reporting**

**A-3344 (McKeon)**

Permits high performing school districts to be monitored by the DOE under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJ QSAC) every seven years rather than every three years.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**A-3578 (Quijano)**

Requires the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to develop and distribute a document containing student loan repayment information for school districts and nonpublic high schools to disseminate to students.

**Description:**

Requires the HESAA to develop a student loan repayment information document for annual distribution to schools. School districts would be required to disseminate the document to students in 11th and 12th grades.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-1696/A-3242 (Turner/Angelini)**

Permits a student to participate in a voluntary survey if the district sends prior written notification to the student’s parents.

**Description:**

Amends current law to allow students to participate in a voluntary survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation if the district sends prior written notification to the student’s parent or guardian.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**S-570/A-491 (Bateman/Polistina)**

Requires Executive Branch departments or agencies to notify Legislature of completion of certain draft school district audit reports and submit copy of final report to Legislature.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

★ **School Choice**

(including charters and vouchers)

**A-3356 (Coutinho)**

Requires charter school to maintain a waiting list and authorizes collaboration between school districts and charter schools; establishes criteria for the revocation of a school’s charter.

**Description:**

Requires:

1) a charter school to maintain a waiting list for admission to the school and to annually submit the number of students on the waiting list to the Commissioner of Education;

2) the commissioner’s annual assessment of a charter school that is required under current law be in writing and posted on the department’s website no later than October 15;

3) the findings of the commissioner’s comprehensive review of a charter school required under current law prior to granting a renewal of the charter be provided in writing to the charter school no later than six months prior to the commissioner’s decision on the renewal of the charter;

4) grounds for which the commissioner may revoke a school’s charter to include:

- the charter school has not fulfilled any condition imposed by the commissioner in connection with the granting of the charter;

- the charter school fails to achieve the core curriculum content standards or fails to meet any performance standard set forth in the school’s charter;

- the charter school engages in a practice and pattern of discrimination in violation of federal or State law or violates any federal or State law; or

- the charter school violates any provision of its charter, including provisions concerning fiscal responsibility;

5) the commissioner to post a charter school’s approved budget on the department’s website; and

6) a board of education and a charter school to enter into a written agreement to conduct collaborative education programs or implement shared services if the arrangement will serve to improve teacher quality of student achievement.

Upon the revocation of its charter, a charter school would be required to provide the commissioner and the parents or guardians of its students with information on how to transfer the student to the school district of residence and must forward all student records to that district. A charter school would also have an independent final audit conducted of the school’s accounts and financial transactions within six months following the closure of the school.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**A-3852/A-2805/S-2243** (Diegnan/Turner)  
Requires voter approval at the annual school election or by the board of school estimate prior to the establishment of a charter school.

**Description:**

Provides that the Commissioner of Education may not approve an application for the establishment of a charter school unless it has been approved by the voters of the district at the annual school election in the case of a charter school to be established in a Type II district. In the case of a charter school to be established in a Type I district, the bill provides that the board of school estimate must approve the establishment of the charter school.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**S-1872/A-2810** (Lesniak/Fuentes)  
“Opportunity Scholarship Act;” establishes pilot program in Department of Treasury providing tax credits to entities contributing to scholarships for low-income children.

**Description:**

Directs the Director of the Division of Taxation, in consultation with the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority, to establish a five-year pilot program to provide 100 percent tax credits to corporations which contribute funding to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to low-income children residing in thirteen select districts who attend a “failing school” (other than a charter school). The scholarships are to be used to pay tuition at out-of-district public schools or in-district or out-of-district nonpublic schools located in the State. “Low income” is defined as a household where the income is no greater than 250 percent of the federal poverty threshold guidelines and “chronically failing schools,” are defined as public schools, in which, in each of the two most recent years for which State assessment data are available:

- 1) the percent of students scoring in the partially proficient range exceeded 40 percent for both language arts and mathematics; or
- 2) the percent of students scoring in the partially proficient range exceeded 65 percent for either language arts or mathematics.

Districts under the bill include: East Orange, Trenton, Camden, Newark, Perth Amboy, Lakewood, Orange, Asbury Park, Jersey City, Elizabeth, Passaic, Plainfield, Paterson

The maximum number of scholarships awarded under the pilot program would be; 3,900 in year one; 7,800 in year two; 15,000 in year three; 25,000 in year four; and 40,000 in year five. In each year, at least 25 percent of the scholarships would be awarded to a student who is enrolled in a nonpublic school unless, as of August 1, scholarships have not been awarded and then this number can expand upwards.

Three scholarship organizations, one in the north, central, and southern regions of the State, would receive an allotment of corporate contributions in direct proportion to the number of scholarships allocated to each. Available scholarships would be allocated across the regions in proportion to the share of the Statewide enrollment in schools located in the region (for 75 percent of the available scholarships) and in proportion to the share of the Statewide enrollment in nonpublic schools located in a district in which a CFS is located (for 25 percent of the available scholarships).

Revenue losses due to the corporate tax credits would be offset by withholding State school aid from participant districts. Initially, an amount equal to the aid per pupil in certain State aid categories would be deducted from the participant districts’ State aid for each resident student enrolled in a public school in the district who receives a scholarship. To the extent that the amount withheld from all participant school districts exceeds the total tax credit authorized under the bill, the excess withholding would be distributed to the participant districts in proportion to the districts’ share of the total initial State school aid withholding.

The participant school districts would be required to provide transportation services to all scholarship students on the same basis as the districts are required to provide transportation to students enrolled in nonpublic schools. Transportation aid would not be deducted as part of the State school aid withholding described previously.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

**S-2198/A-3083** (Ruiz/Jasey)  
Provides for designation of new charter school authorizers.

**Description:**

Enables the Commissioner to designate one or more four-year public institutions of higher education to serve as a charter school authorizers. After designating one or more charter school authorizers, the commissioner may cease performing any of the functions of an authorizer and may transfer oversight of any charter schools that he has authorized to another authorizer. The commissioner is required to provide oversight of the charter school authorizers and take corrective action against an authorizer, including terminating an institution’s designation as a charter school authorizer, when the authorizer fails to fulfill its statutory responsibilities or performs unsatisfactorily.

Each charter school authorizer must annually report to the Commissioner and to the Legislature the performance of the charter schools it oversees, and its operating costs and expenses. A charter school authorizer must accept an application to establish a charter school at any time during the calendar year and make its decision on an application within 150 days of its receipt.

The Commissioner may also grant charters to charter schools that limit admission to students of a particular gender and is directed to actively encourage the establishment of charter schools that: focus on scientifically-based inclusive practices that advance the academic, behavioral, and social skills of diverse learners in all classrooms, including students with Individualized Education Programs in classrooms with typically developing peers; provide opportunities and specialized programs and settings for children with more profound needs; and assist in the return of students from out-of-district segregated placements into public school settings.

No school district or charter school would be required to expend any State aid appropriation or general fund tax levy to support a charter school authorizer.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA has concerns with this legislation as drafted and has sought amendment.**

**S-2569/A-3697** (Kyrillos/Carroll)

“Parent Empowerment and Choice Act;” enables parents to initiate reform in low performing schools through a petition process.

**Description:**

Permits parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in “low performing schools” to initiate a petition process. If a petition garners that includes signatures representing more than 50% of the households of a school’s students it could be submitted to the board of education or, in a school district under full State intervention, the State district superintendent. Those entities would be required to implement one of three options specified in the bill. The board of education or State district superintendent must notify the Commissioner as well as the State board of Education and implement the measure in the next school year commencing at least 180 days after the petition’s receipt.

“Low performing schools” are defined as public schools, in which, in each of the two most recent years for which State assessment data are available:

- 1) the percent of students scoring in the partially proficient range exceeded 40 percent for both language arts and mathematics; or
- 2) the percent of students scoring in the partially proficient range exceeded 65 percent for either language arts or mathematics.

The reform measures that may be requested include:

- 1) reopening the school as a charter school under the guidance of a charter management organization or education management organization approved by the Commissioner of Education;
- 2) a change in school leadership including, but not limited to, replacing the school principal and any other staff who are relevant to the school’s designation as a low performing school; or
- 3) establishment of a tuition voucher system when a voucher is provided to each parent or guardian who requests one. The tuition voucher would equal the lesser of: the actual cost per pupil of the school enrolling a voucher student; or 75% of the school district’s actual comparative cost per pupil in the prior school year, and may be used at any nonpublic school or public school in the State.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

★ **School Funding and Budgets**

**S-1369** (Turner)

Requires superintendent to assume responsibilities of principal in certain school districts.

**Description:**

Requires that the superintendent in a school district with one school perform the responsibilities of the school principal if the school has fewer than 500 students enrolled in that school on the October 15 following the effective date of the bill.

In subsequent years, to ensure stability as enrollment changes, a school district with one school would have to have enrollment below 500 for three subsequent years before a superintendent could assume responsibility for both roles. Similarly, a district that was previously required to assign the principal’s responsibilities to the superintendent would continue to do so unless the school’s enrollment increases to at least 750 students. This bill would not apply to a school district that shares its superintendent with another school district.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA opposes this legislation.**

**S-1896/A-2686** (Van Drew/Albano)

Assigns financial responsibility of educating homeless student to district of attendance.

**Description:**

Makes the cost of educating a homeless child the responsibility of the originating district for remainder of a school year. In subsequent school years, the district to which the student now attends school would be responsible.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-2201/A-3155** (Sweeney/Burzichelli)

Establishes “Property Tax Levy Cap Task Force” to monitor impact of changes to levy cap law.

**Description:**

Establishes the “Property Tax Levy Cap Task Force” to monitor the impact of the two percent tax levy cap. The body, would study: 1) the impact of the cap law on municipal finances, the property tax burden, the structure and functions of county municipal government and school districts; the fiscal relationship between local governments; and 2) the allocation of service delivery responsibilities, and labor agreements reached between local units and collective bargaining entities.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

★ **State Board**

**A-2294** (Diegnan)

Provides for the removal of a State Board of Education member for failure to attend three consecutive board meetings without good cause.

**Description:**

Removes a State Board of Education member who misses three consecutive meetings, upon the board’s vote. A successor would be appointed for the unexpired term by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**A-1550/S-1476** (Lampitt/Rice) -

Prohibits State Board of Education from limiting number of certain two-year college credits that may be applied towards meeting teacher certification requirements.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P  
Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

## ★ Student Health

### A-2744/S-2128 (Diegnan/Whelan)

Requires DOE to develop and distribute information regarding hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and expands role and membership of New Jersey Student Athlete Cardiac Screening Task Force.

#### Description:

Requires that the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, the American Heart Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, to develop a program that provides information regarding hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

School districts would be required to provide information to kids, parents, and coaches. Coaches would also be required to provide students participating in a sport with information on options that are privately available for screening for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Expands the role and membership of the New Jersey Student Athlete Cardiac Screening Task Force to include appointees of DHSS by three.

#### Progress:

Assembly: I C 2R P  
Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

### A-3574 (Conaway)

Requires DOE to develop educational fact sheet for distribution to parents concerning sports-related eye injuries.

#### Description:

Requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, to develop by the 2011-2012 school year, an educational fact sheet that provides information about sports-related eye injuries. School districts would be required to distribute the fact sheet annually to the parents or guardians of the students.

#### Progress:

Assembly: I C 2R P  
Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA had concerns with this legislation as drafted and successfully sought amendment.**

### AJR-25/SJR-51 (Evans/Gordon)

Designates April of each year as "Alcohol Awareness for New Jersey Youth Month."

#### Progress:

Assembly: I C 2R P  
Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

### S-834/A-2454 (Codey/Vainieri Huttle)

Establishes measures to deter steroid use among students.

#### Description:

Requires the Department of Education and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) to work jointly to develop and implement, by the 2010-2011 school year, a program of random steroid testing of student-athletes who qualify to compete in championship tournaments sanctioned by the association.

Any person who coaches a public school district or nonpublic school interscholastic sport, dance, or cheerleading team would be required to incorporate gender-specific training designed to reduce the use of steroids and performance enhancing supplements, alcohol, and drugs, and to promote healthy nutrition and exercise. The program developed by the coach must be submitted to the athletic director.

Also requires the NJSIAA to develop and implement, by the 2010-2011 school year, a steroid and performance enhancing supplement prevention information program for all middle and high school coaches and athletic directors. The program would: establish procedures and protocols designed to provide coaches and athletic directors with information on the dangers of steroids and performance enhancing supplements; identify the use of steroids and performance enhancing supplements in student athletes; and effectively incorporate healthy alternatives for strength building into coaches' training programs.

In addition, requires the NJSIAA to provide anti-steroid and anti-performance enhancing supplement advertisements in any publication produced for sale or distribution at a tournament.

Establishes the third week in September as "Steroid Awareness Week" in New Jersey and requires school districts to observe the week by organizing activities to raise awareness of

the hazards of using steroids and performance enhancing supplements.

#### Progress:

Assembly: I C 2R P  
Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation**

## ★ Student Safety

### A-1563 (Lampitt)

Establishes pilot program in DOE to address school climate issues related to harassment, intimidation, and bullying in public schools.

#### Description:

Establishes a one-year pilot program in six districts (two in each region) to address school climate issues through the administration of anonymous voluntary student surveys that allows students to identify issues related to harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) in school. The completed surveys would be reviewed by the school official who is designated under current law to receive reports of HIB.

In the event that a school official determines that a student is in need of support services, the school official would be required to work with the student, his parents or guardians, teachers, and other educational personnel, as necessary, to develop and implement appropriate services.

Not less than three months after the administration of the first survey, and in the same school year, a second anonymous student survey must be administered.

The commissioner may not require a school district to participate in the pilot program.

School districts would be permitted to administer the anonymous voluntary student survey without providing notice or receiving prior written informed consent from the student's parent or guardian.

#### Progress:

Assembly: I C 2R P  
Senate: C 2R P

**NJPSA has concerns with this legislation as drafted and is seeking amendment.**

### A-1718/S-1797/A-3591 (Burzichelli/Norcross/Johnson)

Allows student who is eligible for special education programs and services for autism or other developmental disability

to bring medically-recommended service dog to school.

**Description:**

Permits an eligible student to bring a medically-recommended service dog to school. A parent or guardian seeking authorization would be required to provide the school district with:

1) a written recommendation from a physician or other medical professional that the student be allowed to bring the service dog in a school building, including the classroom, and on school grounds; and

2) certification that the service dog has been trained by a recognized training agency or school.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-824/A-3883** (Smith/McKeon)

Establishes temperature control guidelines and standards for school facilities.

**Description:**

Requires each district to:

1) strive to maintain room temperatures between 68 degrees to 79 degrees Fahrenheit in all occupied areas of school facilities;

2) measure the temperature of an occupied area of a school facility, when a temperature outside the target range is suspected;

3) evacuate students and staff from an occupied area outside the permitted temperature range within two hours of the temperature measurement; and

4) report, by telephone, a temperature related evacuation within 24 hours to DHSS.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is opposed to this legislation as written but supports facilities improvements to address the bill's concerns.**

**S-2066** (Allen)

Requires school districts to report to DOE certain information on students removed from school pursuant to "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act."

**Description:**

Makes the current violence and vandalism reporting requirement statutory. Also requires that a district's report include information on the number of pupils who have been removed from a school's regular education program pursuant to the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.*, and the disposition, if known, of these pupils by any law enforcement or prosecuting agency.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**S-569/A-1240** (Bateman/Stender)

Establishes pilot program in DEP for chemical cleanouts in schools.

**Description:**

Identifies two school districts willing to volunteer to participate in the pilot program on chemical cleanout.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**SJR-42/AJR-40** (Codey/McKeon)

Designates February of each year as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in New Jersey.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation**

★ **Transportation**

**A-2260/S-1040** (Diegnan/Allen)

Lengthens service life of certain school buses to 15 years.

**Description:**

Extends the service life of school buses manufactured after January 1, 2007 which do not have a gross vehicle weight exceeding 25,000 pounds (other than a "Type S" school bus as defined by *N.J.A.C. 13:20-51.2*.) from 12 years to 15 years.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**

**A-3399/S-2330** (Wagner/Beck)

Allows the parent of a public school pupil eligible for transportation services to waive pupil's right to those services for the school year.

**Description:**

Permits a parent or guardian of a pupil who is eligible for transportation services to waive them for a school year. A school district must develop a policy for the provision of transportation services to the pupil in the case of a family or economic hardship.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA is monitoring this legislation.**

**S-2244/A-2428** (Sweeney/Riley)

Requires school buses transporting certain disabled persons to use flashing lights and establishes penalties for drivers who fail to yield.

**Description:**

Requires the operator of a school bus to activate flashing lights and other safety equipment when a school bus is stopped on a highway for the purpose of discharging or receiving a person who has a developmental disability. Motorists would be required to stop their vehicles at a distance of at least 25 feet from a school bus.

Vehicles moving at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour would be permitted to pass a school bus, if the bus is parked on the side of the highway on which it is discharging or receiving passengers.

**Progress:**

Assembly:  I  C  2R  P

Senate:  C  2R  P

**NJPSA supports this legislation.**