

[Fourth Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 764

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

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SYNOPSIS

“Alyssa’s Law”; requires public school buildings to be equipped with panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on August 27, 2018 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning school security alarms and supplementing
2 chapter 41 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 ¹1. This act shall be known and may be cited as “Alyssa’s
8 Law.”¹

9

10 ¹**[1.]** 2.¹ a. As used in this section:

11 ³**[**“Emergency light” means a red light that is affixed to the
12 exterior of a school building in a highly visible location above or near
13 the front entrance or, in the case of a school building which is not
14 clearly visible from the nearest public roadway, located on that public
15 roadway.**]**³

16 “Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by
17 the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening
18 or emergency situation requiring a response from law enforcement.

19 b. ³**[Each]** Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection
20 e. of this section, each³ public elementary and secondary school
21 building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a
22 school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire
23 evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation. The alarm shall be
24 directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the case of a
25 school building located in a municipality in which there is no
26 municipal police department, a location designated by the
27 Superintendent of State Police, and shall immediately transmit a signal
28 or message to such authorities upon activation. The alarm shall not be
29 audible within the school building.

30 c. ³**[**Each public elementary and secondary school building shall
31 be equipped with an emergency light that is linked to the school’s
32 panic alarm and which turns on when the panic alarm is activated.

33 ²**d.]³** Each panic alarm ³[and emergency light system]³
34 required under this section shall adhere to nationally recognized
35 industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire
36 Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories.

37 ³**[e.]** d.³ Each panic alarm ³[and emergency light system]³
38 required under this section shall be installed solely by a person
39 licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the
40 provisions of section 7 of P.L.1997, c.305 (C.45:5A-27).²

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 12, 2018.

²Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 14, 2018.

³Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 11, 2018.

⁴Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations August 27, 2018.

1 ³e. A school district may equip its elementary and secondary
2 school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative
3 to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the Department of
4 Education.³

5
6 ¹[2.] ^{3.1} ⁴[Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a.
7 of section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) to the contrary, the
8 proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund the State share of
9 the costs of SDA district school facilities projects or the State share
10 of the costs of school facilities projects in all other districts,
11 including county vocational school districts,] A portion of the
12 proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued to fund school security,
13 upon voter approval of P.L.2018, c.119,⁴ shall be used to fund the
14 full cost of the panic alarms ³[and emergency lights]³ required in
15 public elementary and secondary school buildings in any district
16 pursuant to section ³[1] ² of this act ³or alternative emergency
17 mechanisms approved by the department pursuant to that section.
18 A school district that, prior to the effective date of this act, installed
19 a panic alarm or alternative emergency mechanism approved by the
20 department may receive reimbursement for those costs³.

21
22 4. ⁴The New Jersey Schools Development Authority shall
23 adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
24 Law, rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative
25 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to establish a
26 program to effectuate the purposes of this act, which regulations
27 shall be effective for a period not to exceed six months and may
28 thereafter be amended, adopted or readopted by the Schools
29 Development Authority in accordance with the requirements of
30 P.L.1968, c.410.⁴

31
32 ¹[3.] ⁴[4.1] ^{5.4} This act shall take effect on the first day of
33 the tenth month ⁴[after enactment] following voter approval of
34 P.L.2018, c.119⁴.