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Senators Gill, Ruiz, Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywomen Oliver, Jimenez, Pintor Marin, Spencer, Assemblymen McKeon, Gusciora, Coughlin, Assemblywomen Caride, Mosquera and Tucker

SYNOPSIS
Establishes procedures for the approval of the closure of a public school.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As amended by the General Assembly on May 22, 2014.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/17/2014)
AN ACT concerning procedures for closing a public school and
supplementing chapter 33 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
Statutes.

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

1. a. As used in this section, “school closure” means the
termination of the use of a school building, other than a temporary
facility, that necessitates the reassignment of current and future
students to the remaining school buildings of the school district or
to a newly-constructed school building.

b. A board of education or State district superintendent shall
obtain the approval of the Commissioner of Education prior to
implementing a school closure. An application for the approval of a
school closure shall include assurances that:

   (1) the school closure is consistent with the district’s approved
long range facilities plan because there is either sufficient capacity
in the remaining school buildings to house the district’s students for
the succeeding five years, or a feasibility study has demonstrated
that the benefits of constructing a new school building are greater
than the benefits of rehabilitating any school building that is
proposed to be closed, and does not increase the number of
unhoused students in the district’s remaining schools;

   (2) the school closure will not result in an increased use of
temporary facilities;

   (3) the reassignment of students to other schools will not
produce, sustain, or contribute to unlawful segregation of student
populations on the basis of race or national origin, socioeconomic
status, disability status, or English language proficiency; and

   (4) the reassignment of students to other schools will not lead to
unreasonably burdensome transportation requirements for students.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 2 and 6 of
section of law1 to the contrary, a State district superintendent shall
obtain the approval of[ ] present the application to2 the board of
education2 at a public meeting, and the application shall be noted in
the minutes of the meeting2 prior to 2the State district
superintendent2 submitting 2an 2the4 application for approval of a
school closure to the commissioner.

d. The commissioner shall provide a school district with
written notification of the determination regarding the school

closure.

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:
1Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 30, 2014.
2General Assembly floor amendments adopted May 22, 2014.
2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be applicable to any application for the approval of a school closure submitted on or after January 1, 2014.