

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

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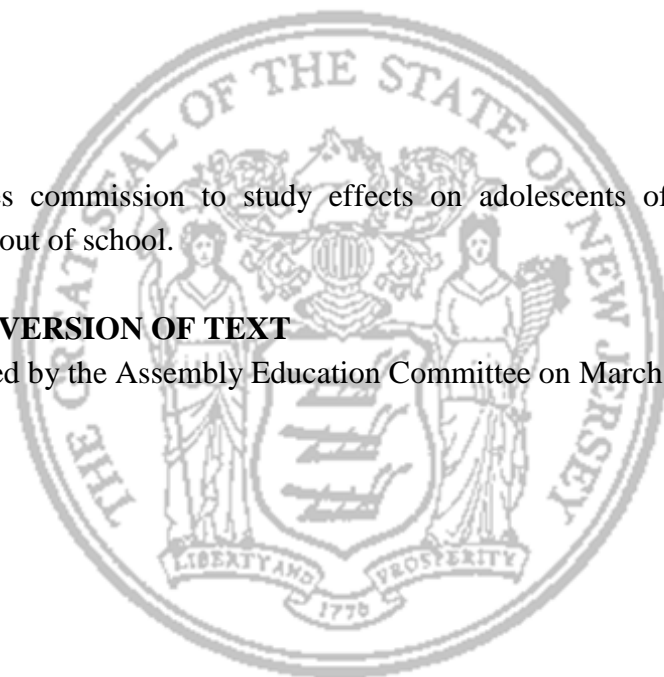
Assemblymen Benson, Mukherji, Assemblywomen Piperno, Eulner, Speight, Assemblyman Moen, Assemblywomen Carter, Park, Senators Diegnan and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Establishes commission to study effects on adolescents of social media usage in and out of school.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on March 16, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing the Commission on the Effects of ¹**[Smart Phone**
2 and¹ Social Media Usage on Adolescents.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. There is established the Commission on the Effects of
8 ¹**[Smart Phone and]**¹ Social Media Usage on Adolescents. The
9 purpose of the commission is to study the extent ¹**[of smart phone]**¹
10 and social media usage in ¹and out of¹ public schools, and to
11 determine the effects that use has on the ¹**[physical and emotional]**¹
12 health and academic performance of students.

13 b. The commission shall consist of ¹**[15]** 19¹ members as
14 follows:

15 (1) the Commissioner of Education, ex officio, or a designee;

16 (2) one public member appointed by the President of the Senate
17 and one public member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
18 Senate, both of whom shall have demonstrated expertise in issues
19 relating to the work of the commission;

20 (3) one public member appointed by the Speaker of the General
21 Assembly and one public member appointed by the Minority Leader of
22 the General Assembly, both of whom shall have demonstrated
23 expertise in issues relating to the work of the commission; and

24 (4) ¹**[10]** 14¹ members appointed by the Governor, including one
25 representative from each of the following organizations: the New
26 Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and
27 Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School
28 Administrators, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey
29 Parent-Teacher Association, Advocates for Children of New Jersey,
30 the New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition, and the New Jersey
31 Association of School Psychologists; ¹a member with demonstrated
32 expertise in the collection, usage and analysis of data concerning
33 social media; a school nurse from the New Jersey State School Nurses
34 Association; two public school students¹ and two parents of students
35 enrolled in a public school.

36
37 2. Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30
38 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the
39 membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner
40 as the original appointments were made. Members of the
41 commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be
42 reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance
43 of their duties as members of the commission within the limits of
44 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the commission

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 16, 2023.

1 for its purposes.

2

3 3. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
4 following the appointment of its members, but not later than 60
5 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall
6 choose a chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a
7 secretary who need not be a member of the commission. The
8 commission shall meet at least quarterly.

9

10 4. The Department of Education shall provide such
11 stenographical, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and
12 such professional staff as the commission requires to carry out its
13 work. The commission also shall be entitled to call to its assistance
14 and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State,
15 county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or
16 agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

17

18 5. It shall be the duty of the commission to determine:

19 a. the extent of ¹["smart phone and"]¹ social media usage in ¹and
20 out of¹ public schools, including the average amount of time students
21 in various age groups spend each day in ¹and out of¹ school on
22 electronic devices;

23 b. the effects that use has on the emotional health of students,
24 including incidents of ¹depressoin, anxiety, body dysmorphia,¹
25 harassment, intimidation or bullying, or other disruptive or violent
26 behaviors;

27 c. the effects that use has on the academic performance of
28 students;

29 d. the effects that use has on the physical health of students,
30 including incidents of ¹["depression,"]¹ sleep deprivation, weight loss
31 or gain, or high blood pressure;

32 e. the establishment of ¹["smart phone and"]¹ social media usage
33 standards, including limiting the amount of time students spend on
34 electronic devices during the school day; ¹["and"]¹

35 f. any other proposals concerning the use of ¹["smart phones
36 and"]¹ social media that the commission feels would help improve the
37 ¹["physical and emotional"]¹ health and the academic performance of
38 students ¹; and

39 g. effective strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of social
40 media usage on student health and academic performance¹.

41

42 6. The commission shall issue a final report of its findings and
43 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant
44 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one
45 year after the commission organizes.

46

47 7. This act shall take effect immediately, and the commission
48 shall expire 30 days after the submission of its report.