

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3213

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires school districts to provide menstrual products in all school buildings.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the provision of menstrual products in public  
2 schools and supplementing chapter 33 of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

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 section, “menstrual products” mean  
9 tampons and sanitary napkins for use in connection with the  
10 menstrual cycle.

11 b. A school district shall ensure that students and staff in each  
12 school of the district educating students in grades kindergarten  
13 through 12, or any combination thereof, have direct access to  
14 menstrual products, free of charge, in all women’s restrooms and  
15 all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men’s restroom.

16 c. In implementing the provisions of subsection b. of this  
17 section, schools shall supply students with a variety of menstrual  
18 products to address the individualized needs of students and staff,  
19 and shall include, but not be limited to:

20 (1) tampons and sanitary napkins graded regular through super-  
21 plus;

22 (2) sanitary napkins ranging from ultra-thin to overnight; and

23 (3) allergy-friendly tampons and sanitary napkins, such as  
24 chlorine-free, hypoallergenic, and fragrance-free products.

25 d. The school district shall install, for each school in the  
26 district, menstrual product dispensers in all women’s restrooms and  
27 all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men’s room. The school  
28 district shall contract with a vendor who will regularly maintain  
29 dispensers and stock them with menstrual products. The types of  
30 dispensers may include, but are not limited to:

31 (1) token-operated dispensers;

32 (2) dispensers with motion sensors intended to prevent the spread  
33 of disease; and

34 (3) dispensers requiring a personal identification number.

35 e. Schools shall provide educational pamphlets addressing toxic  
36 shock syndrome, menstrual disorders, and proper disposal of  
37 tampons and sanitary napkins in all women’s restrooms and all-  
38 gender restrooms, and in at least one men’s restroom. Schools shall  
39 also display, when feasible, posters next to dispensers highlighting  
40 proper menstrual hygiene.

41 f. Any costs incurred by a school district in providing an  
42 adequate supply of menstrual products to meet the needs of its  
43 students and staff shall be borne by the State.

44  
45 2. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
46 Commissioner of Health, shall develop guidelines for school  
47 districts regarding the development of educational pamphlets and  
48 posters pursuant to subsection e. of section 1 of this act.

1       3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
2 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7       This bill requires school districts to ensure that students and staff  
8 in schools educating students in grades kindergarten through 12, or  
9 any combination thereof, have direct access to menstrual products,  
10 free of charge, in all women’s restrooms and all-gender restrooms,  
11 and in at least one men’s room. Any costs incurred by a school  
12 district in complying with the provisions of this bill will be borne  
13 by the State. For purposes of this bill, “menstrual products” mean  
14 tampons and sanitary napkins for use in connection with the  
15 menstrual cycle.

16       Under the bill, schools are required to supply students and staff  
17 with a variety of menstrual products, including tampons and  
18 sanitary napkins graded regular through super-plus, sanitary  
19 napkins ranging from ultra-thin to overnight, and tampons and  
20 sanitary napkins that are allergy-friendly, including chlorine-free,  
21 hypoallergenic, and fragrance-free menstrual products.

22       Also under the bill, school districts will be required to install, for  
23 each school in the district, menstrual product dispensers in all  
24 women’s restrooms and all-gender restrooms, and in at least one  
25 men’s room. School districts will be required to contract with a  
26 vendor who will regularly maintain and stock dispensers.  
27 Dispensers may be operated by tokens, motion sensors, or a  
28 personal identification number. The bill also requires that schools  
29 provide educational pamphlets addressing a variety of topics,  
30 including the symptoms of toxic shock syndrome and of menstrual  
31 disorders, as well as the proper disposal of tampons and sanitary  
32 napkins. Schools will also be required, when feasible, to display  
33 posters highlighting proper menstrual hygiene. The Commissioner  
34 of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, will  
35 develop guidelines for school districts regarding the production of  
36 educational pamphlets and posters.

37       While menstruation typically starts around age 12, it is possible  
38 in children as early as age eight. According to the American  
39 Academy of Pediatrics, the average age of puberty has been getting  
40 steadily lower since the early 20th century. This bill would require  
41 that elementary schools also provide students with access to  
42 menstrual products to address the early age that children may begin  
43 menstruation.