

Two members of New Jersey's State Assembly have introduced a bill that would hijack home education and transform it into a form of public education.

[http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/A3500/3123\\_I1.PDF](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/A3500/3123_I1.PDF)

They propose that parents:

- 1) Be given a deadline to register with their local school;
- 2) Turn in an outline of educational objectives by subject;
- 3) Certify that children have received medical care as "required by law" (!);
- 4) Certify that no one in the home has been convicted of certain criminal offenses;
- 5) Follow a curriculum developed by the State Commissioner of Education;
- 6) Keep a portfolio of student work and a deadline to turn it in for inspection;
- 7) A 30-day lead time on arbitrary inspection of the above;
- 8) Force their children to submit to standardized tests;
- 9) Have the child's work reviewed by a "qualified evaluator";
- 10) Have the child "interviewed" by a psychologist, certified teacher or school administrator;
- 11) 20 days from a bad review to offer more documentation and failing that,
- 12) To enroll the child into a school.

In return, our kids get to play on the school sports team.

WHAT TO DO: As yet, we take no action.

This bill has been sent to the Assembly Education Committee. We hope that it dies there, as have previous attempts at destroying home education.

HOWEVER.

It is imperative that homeschoolers in New Jersey let our Legislators know - not just now, not only when these draconian bills appear - that we are a diverse group, that home education is not a partisan issue, and that we are watching them. That we care. That we vote.

This year, NJHA's "Diversity Project+ - our request for homeschoolers to contact Legislators -- will be earlier this year, just after the election. We hope that all will participate.

Stay tuned.

New Jersey Homeschool Association