

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2578

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JAY WEBBER**  
**District 26 (Morris and Passaic)**  
**Assemblyman ALEX DECROCE**  
**District 26 (Morris and Passaic)**  
**Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS**  
**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

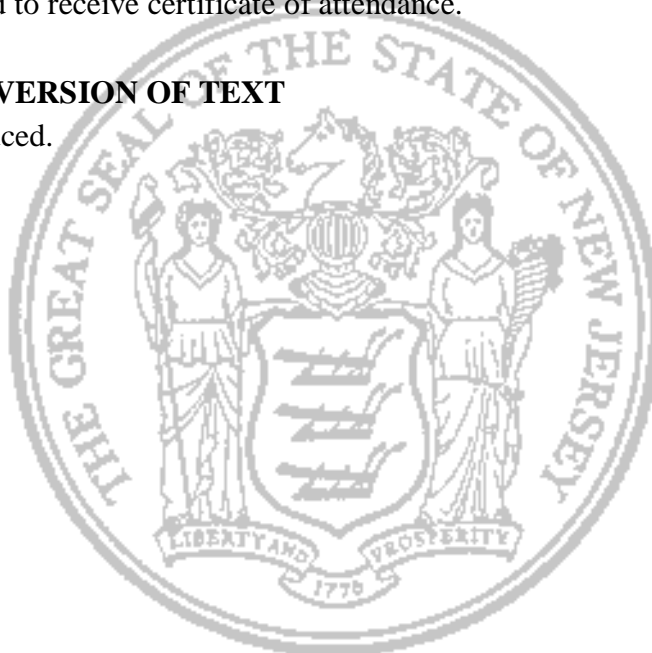
**Assemblymen Merkt, O'Scanlon and Moriarty**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits student whose high school special education program requires instruction beyond four years to participate with his class in graduation ceremony and to receive certificate of attendance.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2008)**

1 AN ACT concerning the participation of certain students in high  
2 school graduation ceremonies and supplementing chapter 7C of  
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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

10  
11 2. a. The board of education of a school district and the board  
12 of trustees of a charter school shall permit a student who has been  
13 classified as eligible for special education programs and services  
14 pursuant to chapter 46 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and  
15 whose individualized education program prescribes continued  
16 special education programs beyond the fourth year of high school to  
17 participate in commencement ceremonies with his graduating class  
18 and to receive a certificate of attendance, provided that the student  
19 has attended four years of high school.

20 b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude a  
21 classified student from receiving a high school diploma when the  
22 student satisfactorily completes his individualized education  
23 program and has met appropriate graduation requirements.

24  
25 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill directs a school district’s board of education and a  
31 charter school’s board of trustees to permit a special education  
32 student whose individualized education program prescribes  
33 continued special education programs beyond the fourth year of  
34 high school to participate in commencement ceremonies with his  
35 graduating class and to receive a certificate of attendance, provided  
36 that the student has attended four years of high school. The bill  
37 stipulates that its provisions do not preclude a classified student  
38 from receiving a high school diploma when the student  
39 satisfactorily completes his individualized education program and  
40 has met appropriate graduation requirements.

41 This bill, if enacted, will be known as “Alicia’s Law.” In 2007,  
42 Alicia Vitiello was a high school senior enrolled in the East  
43 Hanover School District who was initially told that she would be  
44 unable to walk with her peers at their upcoming graduation  
45 ceremony because she had additional coursework to complete in her  
46 individualized education program before she would officially  
47 graduate. While Ms. Vitiello was ultimately allowed to participate  
48 in her class’s graduation ceremony, this bill will ensure that young

1 people in situations similar to Ms. Vitiello's will be able to join the  
2 friends and classmates with whom so many important childhood  
3 milestones have been shared in celebrating this poignant rite of  
4 passage.