STATE OF NEW YORK

10560

IN SENATE

May 21, 2026

Introduced by Sen. STEC -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to limiting the use of timeout boxes, closets or other secluded physical enclosures in schools in the state

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 116 to read as follows:

§ 116. Prohibitions on timeout boxes in schools. 1. The use of timeout boxes, closets or other secluded physical enclosures for the isolation of children are prohibited in schools in the state, except for the authorized limited use of timeout and physical restraint as prescribed in the commissioner's regulations.

2. For purposes of this section:

(a) "Timeout box" shall include, but not be limited to, a wooden or padded room or structure where a child is isolated.

(b) "School" means a public school district, board of cooperative educational services, charter school, state-operated and state-supported school pursuant to articles eighty-five, eighty-seven and eighty-eight of this chapter, in-state and out-of-state private residential or non-residential school for the education of students with disabilities approved pursuant to article eighty-nine of this chapter or operating under article eighty-one of this chapter, state-administered prekindergarten program directly operated by a school district, board of cooperative educational services, or an eligible agency, as defined in 8 NYCRR 151-1.2 (b), or operated by a school district in collaboration with an eligible agency, preschool special education program approved pursuant to section four thousand four hundred ten of this chapter, and registered nonpublic nursery school, kindergarten, and high school, and a nonpublic school serving grades one through eight that has a registered high school, in this state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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