S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6775

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 12, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. ROBINSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring instruction related to the prevention of suicide as an integral part of health education

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 804-e to read as follows:

S 804-E. INSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS. 1. ALL SCHOOLS SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF HEALTH EDUCATION, INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS.

2. INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDED FOR ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS AND SHALL BE TAUGHT BY TEACHERS CERTIFIED IN HEALTH EDUCATION. RELATED COURSES IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM MAY BE TAUGHT IN A MANNER SUPPORTIVE OF HEALTH EDUCATION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS. SUCH CURRICULUM SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION RELATING TO THE SIGNS AND RESPONSES TO DEPRESSION AND THE RISKS OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS.

3. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH A CURRICULUM FOR INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS FOR THE WELFARE OF PUPILS AND THE COMMUNITY TO BE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS. THE CONTENTS MAY BE VARIED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PARTICULAR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND NEED NOT BE UNIFORM THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

4. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED FACILITIES, TIME, AND PLACE FOR THE INSTRUCTION SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND TO PROVIDE LEARNING AIDS AND CURRICULUM RESOURCE MATERIALS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHODS AND LEARNING IN HEALTH EDUCATION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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