

4148

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 1, 2011

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to parent notification of  
environmental health and safety hazards in schools

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 409 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
2     subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3     3. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, THE PROVISIONS  
4     OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINE-L OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO ALL SCHOOL  
5     DISTRICTS, INCLUDING CITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS REGARDLESS OF POPULATION,  
6     BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN  
7     PROGRAMS.

8     S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 409-1 to  
9     read as follows:

10    S 409-L. PARENT NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
11    HAZARDS IN SCHOOLS. 1. TO ENSURE THAT EACH STUDENT, PARENT, PERSON IN  
12    PARENTAL RELATION AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HAS ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT  
13    ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND HAZARDS IN THEIR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, THE  
14    FOLLOWING ACTIONS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN BY SCHOOLS:

15    A. EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL APPOINT AN INFORMATION ACCESS CONTACT  
16    PERSON;

17    B. AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, EVERY SCHOOL SHALL INFORM AND  
18    EDUCATE STUDENTS, PARENTS, PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION AND SCHOOL  
19    EMPLOYEES THAT THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO ALL INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH AND  
20    SAFETY CONDITIONS IN THEIR SCHOOL FACILITIES AS REQUIRED IN THIS  
21    SECTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES USED, STORED  
22    OR PRESENT IN SCHOOL FACILITIES; CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION ACTIV-  
23    ITIES; AIR OR WATER QUALITY SAMPLING RESULTS AND PROBLEMS; PROCEDURES  
24    FOR INFORMATION ACCESS; IDENTIFICATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES  
25    DESIGNATED TO SERVE AS INFORMATION ACCESS CONTACT PERSONS; REQUIREMENTS

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

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FOR TIMELY RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUESTS; AND OTHER PROCEDURES THAT WILL ENSURE READY ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION;

C. ALL SCHOOLS, BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS SHALL ANNUALLY NOTIFY STUDENTS, PARENTS, PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF ALL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES USED, STORED OR PRESENT IN FACILITIES WITHIN THEIR SCHOOL, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES CONDUCTED BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS. EACH SCHOOL, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM SHALL:

(I) ANNUALLY INVENTORY ALL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES USED, STORED OR PRESENT IN ITS FACILITIES, WHICH INVENTORY SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW,

(II) DEVELOP WRITTEN PLANS TO ELIMINATE OR MINIMIZE THE USE AND PRESENCE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN ITS FACILITIES, INCLUDING A TIMETABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE PLAN COMPONENTS, WHICH PLANS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO ADOPTION, AND

(III) PREPARE WRITTEN REPORTS OF THE RESULTS OF ALL SAMPLING, EVALUATION AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES AS APPROPRIATE, SUBMIT SUCH REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DEPARTMENT, AND MAKE AVAILABLE SUCH REPORTS TO THE PUBLIC; AND

D. EVERY SCHOOL, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS, AT LEAST TWO SCHOOL DAYS PRIOR TO ANY MAJOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION, DEMOLITION, MAINTENANCE OR RENOVATION, OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY WITH THE POTENTIAL TO RESULT IN EXPOSURES TO INDOOR OR OUTDOOR HAZARDS THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE HEALTH OF THE OCCUPANTS OF THE FACILITIES:

(I) A WARNING NOTICE SHALL BE PROMINENTLY POSTED AT EACH ENTRY POINT OF EACH FACILITY AND SCHOOL GROUNDS, WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING FORMAT AND INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

"NOTICE OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES  
THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS, PARENTS, PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ARE NOTIFIED THAT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL BE OCCURRING IN THIS SCHOOL:  
SCHOOL NAME  
SCHOOL ADDRESS  
PROPOSED ACTIVITY  
LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY  
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES UTILIZED (IF APPLICABLE)  
MATERIAL DATA SAFETY SHEET IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CONTACT PERSON LISTED BELOW.  
DATE/TIME AND DURATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY  
CONTACT PERSON/LOCATION FOR FURTHER INFORMATION."

(II) SCHOOLS, BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS SHALL ALSO PROVIDE A WRITTEN NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS AND PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION OF THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(III) IF THERE IS NEED FOR AN UNANTICIPATED OR EMERGENCY ACTIVITY, AS DEFINED BY THE COMMISSIONER, PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH, THE WARNING NOTICE FORM AND WRITTEN NOTICE MAY BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONDUCT OF THE ACTIVITY.

(IV) NOTIFICATION SHALL BE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS PURSUANT TO THEIR RIGHTS TO INFORMATION UNDER THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT, AND SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT.

2. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1     A. "HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES" SHALL MEAN AND INCLUDE LEAD, RADON, ASBES-  
2     TOS, FORMALDEHYDE, PRODUCTS CONTAINING GREATER THAN TEN PERCENT VOLATILE  
3     ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND ANY SUBSTANCE LISTED AS A SUBSTANCE HAZARDOUS TO  
4     THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR THE ENVIRONMENT IN REGULATIONS PROMULGATED  
5     PURSUANT TO ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW.  
6     B. "FACILITY" SHALL MEAN SCHOOL BUILDINGS, LANDS AND OTHER APPURTE-  
7     NANCES OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL  
8     SERVICES.  
9     C. "INFORMATION ACCESS CONTACT PERSON" SHALL MEAN A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
10    EMPLOYEE, APPOINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
11    PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
12    REQUESTED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL RESIDING IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF  
13    COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.  
14    S 3. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
15    have become a law.