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I N   A S S E M B L Y

June 10, 2014

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Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. McDonald) --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law and the education law, in  
relation to suicide prevention

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

1     Section 1. Section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding  
2     a new subdivision (g) to read as follows:  
3     (G) THE OFFICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SHALL  
4     IDENTIFY OR DEVELOP MATERIALS FOR EDUCATORS REGARDING SUICIDE PREVENTION  
5     MEASURES AND SIGNS OF DEPRESSION AMONG SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH WHICH MAY BE  
6     USED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES,  
7     AT THEIR OPTION, TO EDUCATE STUDENTS AS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE. SUCH  
8     EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, INFORMATION  
9     REGARDING SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION, HOW DEPRESSION MANIFESTS ITSELF IN  
10    DIFFERENT CULTURES, WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE, ACTIONS TO TAKE ONCE A  
11    YOUTH IS IDENTIFIED AS A RISK OF SUICIDE, AND A LIST OF EDUCATIONAL  
12    WEBSITES REGARDING SUICIDE AND YOUTHS. SUCH MATERIAL SHALL BE AVAILABLE  
13    ON THE INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. THE WEBSITE OF THE  
14    OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE A HYPERLINK TO THE INTERNET PAGE OF THE EDUCATION  
15    DEPARTMENT THAT DISPLAYS SUCH MATERIALS.  
16    S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to  
17    read as follows:  
18    S 804-E. INSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG  
19    YOUTHS. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE, ON THE DEPARTMENT  
20    WEBSITE, MATERIALS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (G) OF SECTION 7.07 OF THE  
21    MENTAL HYGIENE LAW AMONG SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH IDENTIFIED OR DEVELOPED BY  
22    THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.  
23    2. INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE MAY BE INCLUDED IN  
24    THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDED FOR TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS AND  
25    SHALL BE TAUGHT BY TEACHERS CERTIFIED IN HEALTH EDUCATION. RELATED  
26    COURSES IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM MAY BE TAUGHT IN A MANNER  
27    SUPPORTIVE OF HEALTH EDUCATION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG  
28    YOUTHS.

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

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1       3. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED FACIL-  
2 ITIES, TIME, AND PLACE FOR THE INSTRUCTION SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND  
3 TO PROVIDE LEARNING AIDS AND CURRICULUM RESOURCE MATERIALS WHICH  
4 CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHODS AND LEARNING IN HEALTH EDUCA-  
5 TION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS.

6       S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding  
7 the date on which it shall have become a law.