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

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I N S E N A T E

May 14, 2014

Introduced by Sens. ESPAILLAT, CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

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:

Section 1. Section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (g) to read as follows:

(G) THE OFFICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SHALL IDENTIFY OR DEVELOP MATERIALS FOR EDUCATORS REGARDING SUICIDE PREVENTION MEASURES AND SIGNS OF DEPRESSION AMONG SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH WHICH MAY BE USED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, AT THEIR OPTION, TO EDUCATE STUDENTS AS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE. SUCH EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, INFORMATION REGARDING SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION, HOW DEPRESSION MANIFESTS ITSELF IN DIFFERENT CULTURES, WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE, ACTIONS TO TAKE ONCE A YOUTH IS IDENTIFIED AS A RISK OF SUICIDE, AND A LIST OF EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES REGARDING SUICIDE AND YOUTHS. SUCH MATERIAL SHALL BE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. THE WEBSITE OF THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE A HYPERLINK TO THE INTERNET PAGE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THAT DISPLAYS SUCH MATERIALS.

S 2. 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. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE, ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE, MATERIALS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (G) OF SECTION 7.07 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW AMONG SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH IDENTIFIED OR DEVELOPED BY THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

2. INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDED FOR TO 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

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

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SUPPORTIVE OF HEALTH EDUCATION REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS.

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