

1521

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 13, 2015

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Introduced by Sens. KLEIN, DILAN -- 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 authorizing the  
screening for childhood obesity and instruction in good health and  
reducing the incidence of obesity

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

1     Section 1. Section 901 of the education law, as amended by chapter 477  
2     of the laws of 2004, subdivision 1 as amended by section 57 of part A-1  
3     of chapter 58 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:  
4     S 901. School health services to be provided. 1. School health  
5     services, as defined in subdivision two of this section, shall be  
6     provided by each school district for all students attending the public  
7     schools in this state, except in the city school district of the city of  
8     New York, as provided in this article. School health services shall  
9     include the services of a registered professional nurse, if one is  
10    employed, and shall also include such services as may be rendered as  
11    provided in this article in examining students for the existence of  
12    disease or disability, OR MAY INCLUDE SERVICES RELATED TO EXAMINING FOR  
13    CHILDHOOD OBESITY BASED UPON THE CALCULATION OF EACH STUDENT'S BODY MASS  
14    INDEX AND WEIGHT STATUS CATEGORY PURSUANT TO SECTION NINE HUNDRED FOUR  
15    OF THIS ARTICLE, and in testing the eyes and ears of such students.  
16    2. School health services for the purposes of this article shall mean  
17    the several procedures, including, but not limited to, medical examina-  
18    tions, dental inspection and/or screening, scoliosis screening, vision  
19    screening [and], audiometer tests, AND MAY INCLUDE CHILDHOOD OBESITY AS  
20    MEASURED BY BODY MASS INDEX AND WEIGHT STATUS CATEGORY, designed to  
21    determine the health status of the child; to inform parents or other  
22    persons in parental relation to the child, pupils and teachers of the  
23    individual child's health condition subject to federal and state confi-  
24    dentiality laws; to guide parents, children and teachers in procedures

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

LBD05724-01-5

1 for preventing and correcting defects [and], diseases AND CHILDHOOD  
2 OBESITY CONDITIONS; to instruct the school personnel in procedures to  
3 take in case of accident or illness; to survey and make necessary recom-  
4 mendations concerning the health and safety aspects of school facilities  
5 and the provision of health information.

6 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 903 of the education law, as separately  
7 amended by section 11 of part B of chapter 58 and chapter 281 of the  
8 laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

9 1. A health certificate shall be furnished by each student in the  
10 public schools upon his or her entrance in such schools and upon his or  
11 her entry into the grades prescribed by the commissioner in regulations,  
12 provided that such regulations shall require such certificates at least  
13 twice during the elementary grades and twice in the secondary grades. An  
14 examination and health history of any child may be required by the local  
15 school authorities at any time in their discretion to promote the educa-  
16 tional interests of such child. Each certificate shall be signed by a  
17 duly licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, who  
18 is authorized by law to practice in this state, and consistent with any  
19 applicable written practice agreement, or by a duly licensed physician,  
20 physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, who is authorized to prac-  
21 tice in the jurisdiction in which the examination was given, provided  
22 that the commissioner has determined that such jurisdiction has stand-  
23 ards of licensure and practice comparable to those of New York. Each  
24 such certificate shall describe the condition of the student when the  
25 examination was made, which shall not be more than twelve months prior  
26 to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is  
27 required, and shall state whether such student is in a fit condition of  
28 health to permit his or her attendance at the public schools. THE EXAM-  
29 INATION MAY INCLUDE A DIABETES RISK ANALYSIS AND, IF NECESSARY, CHILDREN  
30 WITH RISK FACTORS FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES, OR RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH  
31 TYPE 2 DIABETES SUCH AS OBESITY, A FAMILY HISTORY OF TYPE 2 DIABETES, OR  
32 ANY OTHER FACTORS CONSISTENT WITH INCREASED RISK MAY ALSO BE TESTED FOR  
33 DIABETES. Each such certificate shall also state the student's body mass  
34 index (BMI) and weight status category. For purposes of this section,  
35 BMI is computed as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of  
36 height in meters or the weight in pounds divided by the square of height  
37 in inches multiplied by a conversion factor of 703. Weight status cate-  
38 gories for children and adolescents shall be as defined by the commis-  
39 sioner of health. In all school districts such physician, physician  
40 assistant or nurse practitioner shall determine whether a one-time test  
41 for sickle cell anemia is necessary or desirable and he or she shall  
42 conduct such a test and the certificate shall state the results.

43 S 3. Subdivisions 4 and 5 of section 918 of the education law, as  
44 added by chapter 493 of the laws of 2004, are amended to read as  
45 follows:

46 4. The committee is encouraged to study AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
47 all facets of the current nutritional policies of the district includ-  
48 ing, but not limited to, the goals of the district to promote health and  
49 proper nutrition, REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY, vending  
50 machine sales, menu criteria, educational curriculum teaching healthy  
51 nutrition, AND educational information provided to parents or guardians  
52 regarding healthy nutrition and the health risks associated with obesi-  
53 ty, ASTHMA, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND OTHER CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES.  
54 PROVIDED, FURTHER, THE COMMITTEE MAY PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PERSONS IN  
55 PARENTAL RELATION ON opportunities offered to parents or guardians to  
56 encourage healthier eating habits to students, and the education

1 provided to teachers and other staff as to the importance of healthy  
2 nutrition AND ABOUT THE DANGERS OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY. In addition the  
3 committee shall consider recommendations and practices of other  
4 districts and nutrition studies.

5 5. The committee is encouraged to report periodically to the district  
6 regarding practices that will educate teachers, parents or guardians and  
7 children about healthy nutrition and raise awareness of the dangers of  
8 CHILDHOOD obesity, ASTHMA, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND OTHER CHRONIC RESPIR-  
9 ATORY DISEASES. The committee is encouraged also to provide any parent  
10 teacher associations in the district with such findings and recommenda-  
11 tions.

12 S 4. Subdivision 1 of section 804-a of the education law, as added by  
13 chapter 730 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

14 1. Within the amounts appropriated, the commissioner is hereby  
15 authorized to establish a demonstration program and to distribute state  
16 funds to local school districts, boards of cooperative educational  
17 services and in certain instances community school districts, for the  
18 development, implementation, evaluation, validation, demonstration and  
19 replication of exemplary comprehensive health education programs to  
20 assist the public schools in developing curricula, training staff, and  
21 addressing local health education needs of students, parents, and staff.  
22 SUCH PROGRAMS MAY SERVE THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING PUPILS'  
23 HEALTH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS, WHICH IS FUNDAMENTAL  
24 TO IMPROVING THEIR HEALTH STATUS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, AS WELL AS  
25 REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY, ALCOHOL ABUSE, TOBACCO  
26 ABUSE, TRUANCY, SUICIDE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, OBESITY, ASTHMA, OTHER CHRONIC  
27 RESPIRATORY DISEASES, AND OTHER PROBLEMS OF CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE.

28 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately, except that sections one,  
29 two and three of this act shall take effect two years after this act  
30 shall have become a law.