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

1521--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 13, 2015

Introduced by Sens. KLEIN, DILAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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 ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 901 of the education law, as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2004, subdivision 1 as amended by section 57 of part A-1 of chapter 58 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

S 901. School health services to be provided. 1. School health services, as defined in subdivision two of this section, shall be provided by each school district for all students attending the public schools in this state, except in the city school district of the city of New York, as provided in this article. School health services shall include the services of a registered professional nurse, if one is employed, and shall also include such services as may be rendered as provided in this article in examining students for the existence of disease or disability, OR MAY INCLUDE SERVICES RELATED TO EXAMINING FOR CHILDHOOD OBESITY BASED UPON THE CALCULATION OF EACH STUDENT'S BODY MASS INDEX AND WEIGHT STATUS CATEGORY PURSUANT TO SECTION NINE HUNDRED FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE, and in testing the eyes and ears of such students.

2. School health services for the purposes of this article shall mean the several procedures, including, but not limited to, medical examinations, dental inspection and/or screening, scoliosis screening, vision screening [and], audiometer tests, AND MAY INCLUDE CHILDHOOD OBESITY AS MEASURED BY BODY MASS INDEX AND WEIGHT STATUS CATEGORY, designed to determine the health status of the child; to inform parents or other

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

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persons in parental relation to the child, pupils and teachers of the individual child's health condition subject to federal and state confidentiality laws; to guide parents, children and teachers in procedures for preventing and correcting defects [and], diseases AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY CONDITIONS; to instruct the school personnel in procedures to take in case of accident or illness; to survey and make necessary recommendations concerning the health and safety aspects of school facilities and the provision of health information.

S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 903 of the education law, as amended by chapter 376 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

1. A health certificate shall be furnished by each student in the public schools upon his or her entrance in such schools and upon his or her entry into the grades prescribed by the commissioner in regulations, provided that such regulations shall require such certificates at least twice during the elementary grades and twice in the secondary grades. An examination and health history of any child may be required by the local school authorities at any time in their discretion to promote the educational interests of such child. Each certificate shall be signed by a duly licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, who is authorized by law to practice in this state, and consistent with subdivision three of section six thousand nine hundred two of this chapter, or by a duly licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, who is authorized to practice in the jurisdiction in which the examination was given, provided that the commissioner has determined that such jurisdiction has standards of licensure and practice comparable to those of New York. Each such certificate shall describe the condition of the student when the examination was made, which shall not be more than twelve months prior to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is required, and shall state whether such student is in a fit condition of health to permit his or her attendance at the public schools. THE EXAMINATION MAY INCLUDE A DIABETES RISK ANALYSIS AND, IF NECESSARY, CHILDREN WITH RISK FACTORS FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES, OR RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES SUCH AS OBESITY, A FAMILY HISTORY OF TYPE 2 DIABETES, OR ANY OTHER FACTORS CONSISTENT WITH INCREASED RISK MAY ALSO BE TESTED FOR DIABETES. Each such certificate shall also state the student's body mass index (BMI) and weight status category. For purposes of this section, BMI is computed as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters or the weight in pounds divided by the square of height in inches multiplied by a conversion factor of 703. Weight status categories for children and adolescents shall be as defined by the commissioner of health. In all school districts such physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner shall determine whether a one-time test for sickle cell anemia is necessary or desirable and he or she shall conduct such a test and the certificate shall state the results.

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

4. The committee is encouraged to study AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON all facets of the current nutritional policies of the district including, but not limited to, the goals of the district to promote health and proper nutrition, REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY, vending machine sales, menu criteria, educational curriculum teaching healthy nutrition, AND educational information provided to parents or guardians regarding healthy nutrition and the health risks associated with obesity, ASTHMA, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND OTHER CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THE COMMITTEE MAY PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION ON opportunities offered to parents or guardians to encourage healthier eating habits to students, and the education provided to teachers and other staff as to the importance of healthy nutrition AND ABOUT THE DANGERS OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY. In addition the committee shall consider recommendations and practices of other districts and nutrition studies.

5. The committee is encouraged to report periodically to the district regarding practices that will educate teachers, parents or guardians and children about healthy nutrition and raise awareness of the dangers of CHILDHOOD obesity, ASTHMA, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND OTHER CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES. The committee is encouraged also to provide any parent teacher associations in the district with such findings and recommendations.

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

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

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