

1730

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

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Introduced by Sens. PARKER, SAMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a temporary state commission, within the office for  
the prevention of domestic violence, to study intimate partner  
violence; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expira-  
tion thereof

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

1     Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby  
2 finds that intimate partner violence against women is a major public  
3 health concern that needs to be addressed with all practical and prag-  
4 matic tools at its disposal and that those tools should be effectively  
5 and responsibly utilized by communities all across the state.  
6     According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA),  
7 1.5 million women are physically and/or sexually abused by an intimate  
8 partner each year, and 25% will experience intimate partner violence at  
9 some time during their lifetimes. Moreover, 25% of adolescents have  
10 experienced physical or sexual dating violence. In another report, the  
11 U.S. Department of Justice found out that females are approximately ten  
12 times more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than are males.  
13     Similarly, injuries that result from such violence are significantly  
14 more common among females for both adolescents and adult populations,  
15 and approximately 10% of intentional injuries to adolescent girls are  
16 reported to be the result of violent male dating. External factors such  
17 as race, age, illiteracy and ethnicity are closely related with the  
18 climbing rates of intimate partner violence. Furthermore, health risks  
19 and demographics have been found to be associated with both dating  
20 violence variables and health risk outcomes.  
21     Research suggests that the incidence of physical dating violence was  
22 associated with substance use (heavy smoking, binge drinking, driving  
23 after drinking, cocaine use), unhealthy weight control (diet pills use,

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

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1 laxative use), risky sexual behavior (first intercourse before the age  
2 of fifteen years, not using a condom at last intercourse, at least three  
3 sex partners in the last three months), pregnancy, and suicidality  
4 (considered, attempted suicide).

5 A study found that many secondary effects are commonly related with  
6 the prevalence of intimate partner violence. For example, both adoles-  
7 cent girls and adult women who experienced forcible sex are more likely  
8 to exhibit eating disorders; also, violent childhood experiences cata-  
9 lyze the vulnerability to become victims of intimate partner violence.  
10 Likewise, the humiliation of those who experienced intimate partner  
11 violence may play a major role in predisposing teens to suicidal idea-  
12 tion and behavior. Moreover, based on recent data from abused adults,  
13 adolescents who experience dating violence may be less likely than  
14 others to receive treatment for mental health concerns.

15 Adolescents experiencing dating violence are at significantly elevated  
16 risks for having greater numbers of sex partners, making them more  
17 vulnerable to contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases  
18 than adolescent girls who are not abused by dating partners. Similarly,  
19 abused high school girls are found to be more likely than their non-a-  
20 bused peers to have ever been pregnant. In contrast, younger girls were  
21 found to be at lower risk for experiences of dating violence, due to  
22 reduced opportunity for such experiences.

23 Evidently, the legislature needs to address this issue thoroughly due  
24 to the disturbing statistics that show an increasing rate of adolescent  
25 dating violence. Bearing in mind that the state's population is composed  
26 mainly of minority groups, and that for example, according to JAMA,  
27 black female students appear to be more likely than individuals from  
28 other groups to report sexual violence in the absence of physical  
29 violence from dating partners, it is imperative to formulate legislation  
30 that would study this issue properly and then make necessary recommenda-  
31 tions that would lead to minimizing this problem.

32 As noted, it is relevant to make a relationship between dating  
33 violence and health risks among, but not limited to, adolescent girls in  
34 the state of New York. Health experts agree that perhaps the most press-  
35 ing need for research involves the development of this violent behavior  
36 among perpetrators of abuse against dating partners. Prevention efforts  
37 in this area should be expanded and support should be provided for  
38 development and implementation of prevention programs and services  
39 specific to teen dating violence. Equally important, is the finding of  
40 this legislature that medical and mental health professionals should  
41 routinely screen adolescents for dating violence and be aware of appro-  
42 priate referrals.

43 It is the finding of this legislature that a body of experts in this  
44 area be convened to report and recommend solutions to intimate partner  
45 violence that can be quickly implemented throughout the state.

46 S 2. A temporary state commission on intimate partner violence is  
47 hereby established, within the office for the prevention of domestic  
48 violence, to examine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the  
49 prevalence, causes, effects, risks and costs to the state of intimate  
50 partner violence, including dating violence toward young women. Such  
51 commission shall review the impact of the existing conditions on inti-  
52 mate partner violence, and how to reduce such violence and increase the  
53 reporting of such violence.

54 S 3. The temporary state commission on intimate partner violence shall  
55 consist of 15 members to be appointed as follows: 7 shall be appointed  
56 by the governor; 3 shall be appointed by the temporary president of the

1 senate; 3 shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; 1 shall be  
2 appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and 1 shall be appointed  
3 by the minority leader of the assembly. Of the members appointed by the  
4 governor: 1 member shall be a representative of the office of mental  
5 health, 1 member shall be a representative of the education department,  
6 1 member shall be a representative of the office for the prevention of  
7 domestic violence, 1 member shall be a representative of the office of  
8 children and family services and 1 member shall be a representative of  
9 the crime victims board. The appointed members of the commission shall  
10 be broadly representative of the geographic areas of the state. The  
11 members shall each have expertise in the prevalence, causes, effects or  
12 risks of intimate partner violence, or the solutions for such violence.  
13 The governor shall designate the chair and vice chair from among his or  
14 her appointees. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be  
15 filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

16 S 4. The members of the temporary state commission on intimate partner  
17 violence shall convene as necessary as determined by the chair. The  
18 members of the temporary state commission shall receive no compensation  
19 for their services, but shall be allowed their necessary expenses  
20 incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

21 S 5. The temporary state commission on intimate partner violence may  
22 hold public hearings, and within all relevant laws and regulations  
23 governing confidentiality, shall be entitled to request and receive data  
24 of any applicable court, department, division, board, bureau, commission  
25 or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may  
26 reasonably request to carry out properly its powers and duties pursuant  
27 to this act.

28 S 6. The temporary state commission on intimate partner violence shall  
29 make a preliminary report to the governor and the legislature of its  
30 findings, conclusions and recommendations within twelve months of the  
31 effective date of this act; a second report of its findings, conclusions  
32 and recommendations, and shall include an outcome analysis of the imple-  
33 mentation of its recommendations from the preliminary report within  
34 twenty-four months of the effective date of this act; and a final report  
35 of its final findings, conclusions and recommendations, and an outcome  
36 analysis of the implementation of its recommendations from its previous  
37 two reports within thirty-six months of the effective date of this act;  
38 and shall submit with its reports such legislative proposals as it deems  
39 necessary to implement its recommendations.

40 S 7. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
41 have become a law and shall expire 3 years after such effective date  
42 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed;  
43 provided, however that any and all actions necessary to effectuate the  
44 provisions of this act shall take effect immediately.