STATE OF NEW YORK

9846

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. BARRETT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to establish a task force to explore the effects of cyber-bullying in New York state and potential measures to address such effects

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. A task force is hereby established to conduct a comprehensive study on the effects of, and potential methods to address, cyber-bullying. The scope of such study shall include:

a. processes that school districts can use to develop a policy that prohibits cyber-bullying, such as a process that includes representation of parents or guardians, school employees, volunteers, students, administrators, or community representatives;

b. procedures for school districts to implement that assist individuals in reporting an act of cyber-bullying;

c. procedures for school districts to implement to ensure prompt and thorough investigations of reports of cyber-bullying;

d. identifying existing staff that may be able to assist a school district in responding to an incident of cyber-bullying, such as counselor services, support services, or intervention services;

e. the potential use of a statement in a cyber-bullying policy that prohibits reprisals or retaliation against any person who reports an act of cyber-bullying and the consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation;

f. how often a school district should conduct a reevaluation and review of its cyber-bullying policy;

g. additional methods school districts can use, such as grants, to fund a program regarding cyber-bullying;

h. identifying the most common victims of cyber-bullying by age, ethnicity, religion, gender, or any other identifying characteristic the members of the task force deem relevant;

i. determining the most common mediums used in cases of cyber-bullying, including but not limited to, text messages, websites, and social media;

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

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j. identifying the social and psychological effects of cyber-bullying on individuals;

k. measures other states or legislative bodies have taken to address cyber-bullying;

l. drafting model regulations that may be promulgated by this state to address cyber-bullying; and

m. drafting model policies, in conjunction with provisions stated in this section, that may be implemented by a school district to address cyber-bullying.

§ 2. a. The task force shall consist of seven members to be appointed as follows:

(1) three members appointed by the governor;

(2) two members appointed by the temporary president of the senate; and

(3) two members appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

b. The governor shall designate one of the appointees as the chair of the task force.

c. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

d. All appointments shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of this act. All vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority.

§ 3. The task force shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the governor, temporary president of the senate, and speaker of the assembly within one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this act and annually thereafter for the following three years.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.