STATE OF NEW YORK

5332--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 22, 2017

Introduced by Sen. HAMILTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- recommitted to the Committee on Finance 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 establishing the youth violence prevention pilot program

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to read as follows:

§ 319. Youth violence prevention pilot program. 1. Subject to available appropriations, the commissioner shall establish a pilot program for the prevention of youth violence. The commissioner shall select school districts to participate in the pilot program that have demonstrated a need based on factors, including, but not limited to, high rates of absenteeism, high rates of suspensions, designation of persistently dangerous school, and other factors as determined by the commissioner.

2. The program shall provide grant aid for the employment of mental health professionals within participating school districts including, but not limited to, social workers, school psychologists, and counselors.

3. To be considered for the pilot program, a school district shall submit a proposal to the commissioner detailing:

(a) the reasons why the district seeks to participate in this pilot;

(b) the school district's barriers to hiring mental health professionals; and

(c) the role that mental health professionals would provide if selected for the pilot.

4. The commissioner shall establish rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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