

STATE OF NEW YORK

804

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 4, 2017

Introduced by Sen. ALCANTARA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law and the education law, in relation to suicide prevention

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

1 Section 1. Section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding
2 a new subdivision (g) to read as follows:

3 (g) The office, in consultation with the education department, shall
4 identify or develop materials for educators regarding suicide prevention
5 measures and signs of depression among school-aged youth which may be
6 used by school districts and boards of cooperative educational services,
7 at their option, to educate students as they deem appropriate. Such
8 educational materials shall include, but not be limited to, information
9 regarding symptoms of depression, how depression manifests itself in
10 different cultures, warning signs of suicide, actions to take once a
11 youth is identified as a risk of suicide, and a list of educational
12 websites regarding suicide and youths. Such material shall be available
13 on the internet website of the education department. The website of the
14 office shall provide a hyperlink to the internet page of the education
15 department that displays such materials.

16 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to
17 read as follows:

18 § 804-e. Instruction related to the prevention of suicide among
19 youths. 1. The commissioner shall make available, on the department
20 website, materials, pursuant to subdivision (g) of section 7.07 of the
21 mental hygiene law, among school-aged youth identified or developed by
22 the office of mental health in consultation with the department.

23 2. Instruction regarding the prevention of suicide may be included in
24 the health education provided to all secondary school pupils and shall

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

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1 be taught by teachers certified in health education. Related courses in
2 the secondary school curriculum may be taught in a manner supportive of
3 health education regarding the prevention of suicide among youths.

4 3. School authorities shall be authorized to provide the needed facil-
5 ities, time and place for the instruction set forth in this section and
6 to provide learning aids and curriculum resource materials which
7 contribute to effective teaching methods and learning in health educa-
8 tion regarding the prevention of suicide among youths.

9 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
10 the date on which it shall have become a law.