STATE OF NEW YORK

9822

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the establishment of a statewide toll-free hotline for reporting instances of bullying in schools

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 115 to read as follows:

§ 115. Toll-free statewide bullying hotline. 1. The department shall establish a statewide, toll-free telephone number (a "hotline") to receive reports of bullying in schools. The hotline shall receive reports of allegations of reportable incidents twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week. The hotline shall accept anonymous calls and, if feasible, accept text messages. The department shall provide information about such hotline to each public and private school in the state.

2. When any allegation that could reasonably constitute a reportable incident is received by the hotline, the hotline shall accept and immediately transmit notice of the report orally and electronically to any appropriate state agencies or local social services office. Whenever a telephone call or electronic transmission to the hotline alleges an act or circumstances that may constitute a criminal offense or an immediate threat to an individual's health, safety or welfare, the hotline shall convey, by the most expedient means available, the information contained in such call or transmission to the appropriate law enforcement agency or district attorney and, to the extent necessary, the appropriate emergency responder, and the relevant state agency or local social services office.

3. The department is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to facilitate the implementation and operation of the hotline, including but not limited to, procedures for timely and accurate referrals to other state agencies or entities that may have investigative or oversight authority regarding reported incidents.

§ 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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