

STATE OF NEW YORK

6021

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 26, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ, MOSLEY, SEAWRIGHT, DICKENS, D'URSO,
ARROYO, LAVINE, SIMON, BLAKE, COOK, DE LA ROSA, WILLIAMS, BICHOTTE --
Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. HYNDMAN -- 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 Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 115 to
2 read as follows:

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

10 2. When any allegation that could reasonably constitute a reportable
11 incident is received by the hotline, the hotline shall accept and imme-
12 diately transmit notice of the report orally and electronically to any
13 appropriate state agencies or local social services office. Whenever a
14 telephone call or electronic transmission to the hotline alleges an act
15 or circumstances that may constitute a criminal offense or an immediate
16 threat to an individual's health, safety or welfare, the hotline shall
17 convey, by the most expedient means available, the information contained
18 in such call or transmission to the appropriate law enforcement agency
19 or district attorney and, to the extent necessary, the appropriate emer-
20 gency responder, and the relevant state agency or local social services
21 office.

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

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

6 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.