STATE OF NEW YORK

5941

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 2, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PICHARDO, SAYEGH, TAYLOR, DE LA ROSA, DICKENS, ZEBROWSKI, J. RIVERA, SIMON, COOK, WILLIAMS, FRONTUS, REYES, WEPRIN, FERNANDEZ, STIRPE, BUTTENSCHON, M. MILLER, NIOU -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABBATE, ENGLEBRIGHT, J. M. GIGLIO, TAGUE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the education law, in relation to establishing Junior's law

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Junior's law".

§ 2. Article 6 of the social services law is amended by adding a new title 8-B to read as follows:

TITLE 8-B

SAFE HAVENS FOR ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Section 448-a. Definitions.

448-b. Safe havens.

§ 448-a. Definitions. As used in this title:

1. The term "small business" shall mean a business with fifty employees or less.

2. The term "endangered child" shall mean an individual under the age of eighteen who has had physical injury inflicted upon him or her by other than accidental means or is in imminent danger of physical injury.

3. The term "safe haven" shall mean a temporary place of refuge or security whereupon an endangered child shall remain until the proper authorities arrive to mitigate an immediate threat.

§ 448-b. Safe havens. 1. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, pursuant to regulations of the office of children and family services, a small business shall provide safe haven to an endangered child who enters upon such premises stating an immediate threat upon their wellbeing.

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

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2. Such small business shall notify the police immediately of such threat and permit such endangered child to remain until the police arrive.

3. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, a small business who knowingly or willfully fails to report under this title will be subject to penalties determined by the commissioner of the office of children and family services.

§ 3. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 57 to read as follows:

57. The commissioner is authorized and directed to facilitate a "safe walk home zone" program in which local boards of education and school boards are required to work with local chambers of commerce to create specific areas in which students are able to safely travel to and from school. The commissioner shall promulgate any necessary rules or regulations to guide in the creation of such program.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.