

STATE OF NEW YORK

2207--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 20, 2021

Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, BIAGGI, BORRELLO, BROOKS, COMRIE, GIANARIS, HOYLMAN, MYRIE, RAMOS, SANDERS, WEIK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education 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 water safety instruction working group; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 805 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 805. Water safety instruction working group. 1. The commissioner
4 shall establish a water safety instruction working group to study appro-
5 priate standards for curriculum on water safety instruction for students
6 in grades kindergarten through twelve in the state.

7 2. Such working group shall be composed of not more than fifteen indi-
8 viduals representing interested stakeholders, including:

9 a. the commissioner or their designee;

10 b. the commissioner of the department of health or their designee;

11 c. the commissioner of the division of homeland security and emergency
12 services or their designee;

13 d. individuals who represent not-for-profit water safety organiza-
14 tions;

15 e. experts in teaching students on swimming and water safety in
16 elementary school, middle school, and high school;

17 f. experts in training first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and
18 other water emergency-related responses;

19 g. school administrators who work at an elementary school, middle
20 school, or high school;

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

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1 h. individuals who represent climate-related emergency preparation and
2 training, specifically for water-related disasters; and
3 i. any other stakeholder the commissioner deems necessary, including
4 but not limited to, community members who are underserved and dispropor-
5 tionately impacted by the current distribution of swimming resources in
6 public schools and who are most likely to be affected by water-related
7 disasters due to climate change.

8 3. Such working group shall meet on a regular basis and shall study
9 the options and best practices available and make recommendations for:

10 a. the need and appropriateness of swimming and water safety instruc-
11 tion in public schools, with particular consideration of water-related
12 climate change disasters and proper emergency responses and skills of
13 survival;

14 b. which agencies or organizations should inform the department on the
15 best standards for curriculum on water safety instruction;

16 c. the availability of swimming pools and other equipment needed to
17 provide water safety instruction in public schools; and

18 d. the fiscal implications to school districts if any proposed stand-
19 ards were implemented.

20 4. The working group established pursuant to subdivision one of this
21 section shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor,
22 the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no
23 later than twelve months after the effective date of this section. Such
24 report shall be made publicly available on the department's website.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
26 deemed repealed six months after the submission of the report by the
27 water safety instruction working group pursuant to section one of this
28 act; provided, however, that the commissioner of education shall notify
29 the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the
30 submission of the report by the water safety instruction working group
31 pursuant to section one of this act in order that the commission may
32 maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text
33 of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the
34 provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the
35 public officers law.