STATE OF NEW YORK

8392

IN SENATE

February 22, 2022

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring schools to include instruction on the prevention of co-occurring disorders as an integral part of their health education programs

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

Section 1. The section heading of section 804 of the education law, as amended by chapter 390 of the laws of 2016, is amended and a new subdivision 5-a is added to read as follows:

Health education regarding mental health, alcohol, drugs, tobacco abuse**, co-occurring disorders** and the prevention and detection of certain cancers.

5-a. Instruction regarding the prevention of co-occurring disorders as a bridge between units on mental health and substance misuse/addiction shall be included in the health education provided for all junior high school grades and the senior high schools. Such instruction shall be designed according to the needs and abilities of the pupils at successive grade levels with the purpose of educating about the importance of maintaining mental health and wellness, fostering and developing healthy decision making through an understanding of pathways to substance misuse/addiction and preparing pupils to live healthy lives. In developing such instruction, the commissioner may consult with the advisory council on underage alcohol consumption and youth substance abuse, established pursuant to section 19.06 of the mental hygiene law, and the adolescent suicide prevention program, established pursuant to section 41.49 of the mental hygiene law.

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

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

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