STATE OF NEW YORK

2842

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. PHEFFER AMATO, COOK, SEAWRIGHT, SIMON, HEVESI, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, EPSTEIN, CRUZ, NORRIS, MORINELLO, McDONOUGH, MAMDANI, ANDERSON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. SILLITTI, ZINERMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

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:

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

§ 805. Water safety instruction working group. 1. The commissioner shall establish a water safety instruction working group to study appropriate standards for curriculum on water safety instruction for students in grades kindergarten through twelve in the state.

2. Such working group shall be composed of not more than fifteen individuals representing interested stakeholders, including:

a. the commissioner or their designee;

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

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

d. individuals who represent not-for-profit water safety organizations;

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

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

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

h. individuals who represent climate-related emergency preparation and training, specifically for water-related disasters; and

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

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i. any other stakeholder the commissioner deems necessary, including but not limited to, community members who are underserved and disproportionately impacted by the current distribution of swimming resources in public schools and who are most likely to be affected by water-related disasters due to climate change.

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

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

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

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

d. the fiscal implications to school districts if any proposed standards were implemented.

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

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