STATE OF NEW YORK

598

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL, SANTABARBARA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requiring comprehensive training for school bus drivers and school bus attendants in the discouragement, prevention and detection of harassment, bullying and discrimination

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

Section 1. Section 3650 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3. The commissioner shall develop a uniform and comprehensive training program for school bus drivers transporting students to and from school by school bus in the discouragement, prevention, and detection of harassment, bullying and discrimination as defined under article two of this chapter. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, instruction concerning the effects of harassment, bullying and discrimination and the appropriate response when a school bus driver encounters such situation. The training and instruction required by this subdivision may be included with the training and instruction required pursuant to paragraph a of subdivision one and subdivision two of this section and shall be provided at least once per year or more frequently as determined by the commissioner in consultation with the state comprehensive school bus driver safety training council.

§ 2. Section 1229-d of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

(5) The commissioner of education shall promulgate rules and regulations requiring that every school bus attendant serving pupils with a disabling condition receive training and instruction relating to the discouragement, prevention, and detection of harassment, bullying and discrimination as defined under article two of the education law. Such

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

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training shall include, but not be limited to, instruction concerning the effects of harassment, bullying and discrimination and the appropriate response when a school bus attendant encounters such situation. The training and instruction required by this subdivision may be included with the training and instruction required pursuant to this section and shall be provided at least once per year or more frequently as determined by the commissioner of education, in consultation with the state comprehensive school bus driver safety training council.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.