STATE OF NEW YORK

2545--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 23, 2023

Introduced by Sen. ADDABBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing water safety instruction in schools

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. Instruction in water safety. 1. All public school districts within the state shall make available and encourage water safety instruction for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Such school districts shall be required to send home to parents of students asynchronous water safety materials each year. Such instruction shall be defined by the commissioner in regulations after consultation with the department of health and be designed to educate students about water safety in grades kindergarten through twelve. Such age appropriate instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the proper use of flotation devices, awareness of water conditions, how to respond if caught in a rip current, the proper lifeguarded supervision of swim areas, safe behaviors in and around the water, the importance of pool barriers and fencing, the importance of formal swim lessons, the importance of avoiding alcohol and substance use with water recreation, the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation for drowning victims and the importance of the order of administering such aid. Nothing in this section shall prevent the department from making model curriculum and resource materials available on the department's website. Each school district shall notify the commissioner prior to the beginning of each school year if they choose to provide instruction in water safety.

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

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2. The commissioner may provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such instruction which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of pupils at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness, skills, information, self-confidence and support in the understanding of water safety and the practice of water safety behaviors and skills.

§ 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.