STATE OF NEW YORK

10616

IN ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Rajkumar) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a statewide school safety tip line

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 319 to read as follows:

§ 319. Statewide school safety tip line. 1. The commissioner shall establish a statewide school safety tip line. The tip line shall be a statewide telecommunications resource that accepts information via telephone, text message, the internet, or any other medium for the purpose of reporting information related to incidents of students causing harm to the physical or mental health of another student or school employee, or a threat of such harm.

2. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to operate the tip line, including, but not limited to:

(a) provisions which protect the personally identifiable information of the person reporting information but which permit local law enforcement or school personnel to follow up on such reports or obtain further information from the person making the report;

(b) procedures for logging reports received on the tip line;

(c) referral of information to school districts or law enforcement; and

(d) tracking outcomes of any action taken in response to the referral.

3. Any person authorized to receive personally identifiable information through the tip line may only disclose such information for the purpose of making follow-up contact or obtaining or providing further information, unless such disclosure is required by another provision of law.

4. Nothing in this section shall prevent the department from releasing aggregated or summary data for reporting purposes; or educating the public about the tip line through narratives of cases, without disclosure of personally identifiable information.

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

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5. Every public school building shall display one or more signs advertising the tip line that is visible to school employees, students, and parents or guardians.

6. The statewide tip line mandated under this section shall not preclude operation of any other such tip line or other similar resource operated regionally or by a school district in this state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.