

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2531

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 26, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, DAVILA, ZINERMAN, EPSTEIN, MEEKS, ANDERSON, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, BURGOS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. AUBRY, CARROLL, COLTON, DICKENS, DILAN, FAHY, JOYNER, McDONOUGH, PEOPLES-STOKES, ROZIC, SEAWRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating a gun violence prevention program

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "gun  
2 violence prevention act".

3 § 2. Legislative intent. Gunshot injuries are a major cause of death  
4 for children and adolescents in the United States, accounting for twelve  
5 percent of all premature deaths. Further, for every young person who  
6 dies as the result of a gunshot injury, five others are seriously  
7 injured by a gunshot. Concentrated efforts in the areas of drug and  
8 alcohol abuse prevention have demonstrated that preventive education can  
9 reduce risks for youth. But although there are many drug prevention  
10 programs, there are few gun violence prevention programs in existence.

11 The intent of the legislature in enacting the "gun violence prevention  
12 act" is to implement a gun violence prevention program for school-aged  
13 youth and their families to help young people to develop victim  
14 prevention skills and to rehearse behaviors needed to manage problems,  
15 such as conflict and peer pressure, non-violently, without guns. The  
16 program would not oppose gun ownership or the well-supervised use of  
17 guns for hunting or sport.

18 § 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3204-a to  
19 read as follows:

20 § 3204-a. Gun violence prevention program. 1. The department, in  
21 consultation with school districts, the department of health, the divi-  
22 sion of criminal justice services, the department of environmental

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

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1 conservation and any other educational organizations, is authorized and  
2 directed to develop and make available to school districts a gun  
3 violence prevention program. The program shall include: practical  
4 skills which students can use outside the classroom; opportunities for  
5 self-reflection and role-play of students' coping mechanisms and  
6 emotions; student-set goals for change; the development of competency  
7 and leadership skills to address issues with peers and the community;  
8 and parental and community involvement and support in the program.

9 2. Every school may instruct students in pre-kindergarten through  
10 twelfth grade with respect to gun violence prevention using materials  
11 provided by the department for such purpose. Each school electing to  
12 provide such instruction may request information and resources therefor  
13 from the department pursuant to this article.

14 3. The department shall provide a report to the governor and the  
15 legislature on or before July first, two thousand twenty-six, assessing  
16 the results of the gun violence prevention program established pursuant  
17 to the provisions of this section. The report shall include findings as  
18 to the program's impact on reducing gunshot injuries among children and  
19 adolescents and shall offer recommendations as to whether the gun  
20 violence prevention program should be expanded, modified or eliminated,  
21 and whether or not other gun violence prevention programs should be  
22 authorized.

23 § 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
24 it shall have become a law.