

STATE OF NEW YORK

2545

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

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:

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

3 § 805. Instruction in water safety. 1. All public school districts
4 within the state shall have the opportunity to opt-in to a program to
5 provide students in grades kindergarten through twelve with instruction
6 in water safety. Such program shall be defined by the commissioner in
7 regulations after consultation with the department of health and be
8 designed to educate students about water safety in grades kindergarten
9 through twelve. Such age appropriate instruction shall include, but not
10 be limited to, the proper use of flotation devices, awareness of water
11 conditions, how to respond if caught in a rip current, the proper super-
12 vision of swim areas, safe behaviors in and around the water, the impor-
13 tance of pool barriers and fencing, the importance of formal swim
14 lessons, the importance of avoiding alcohol and substance use with water
15 recreation, the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation for drowning
16 victims and the importance of the order of administering such aid.
17 Nothing in this section shall prevent the department from making model
18 curriculum and resource materials available on the department's website.
19 Each school district shall notify the commissioner prior to the begin-
20 ning of each school year if they choose to opt-in to such program to
21 provide instruction in water safety.

22 2. The commissioner may provide technical assistance to assist in the
23 development of curricula for such instruction program which shall be age
24 appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of pupils
25 at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness, skills, infor-

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

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1 mation, self-confidence and support in the understanding of water safety
2 and the practice of water safety behaviors and skills.
3 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
4 the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the
5 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary
6 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized
7 to be made and completed on or before such effective date.