

STATE OF NEW YORK

4528

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 16, 2017

Introduced by Sen. MURPHY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the creation of a school-based teen dating violence prevention program

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 25
2 to read as follows:

3 § 25. School-based teen dating violence prevention program. 1. The
4 commissioner, in cooperation with the commissioner of education, and
5 county boards of cooperative extension, shall encourage the establish-
6 ment of a school-based teen dating violence prevention program as
7 provided in subdivision two of this section.

8 2. The program shall be designed to be incorporated into a school
9 district's existing health curriculum to prevent and reduce the inci-
10 dence and prevalence of teen dating violence. The program shall use
11 recommendations and goals of the New York state coalition against domes-
12 tic violence, or its successor, and local community providers in devel-
13 oping and implementing guidelines relating to education, strategies and
14 responses to teen dating violence for students in kindergarten through
15 twelfth grade to prevent, deter and address incidents of teen dating
16 violence.

17 3. The teen dating violence prevention program shall include age-
18 appropriate information about healthy relationships and teen dating
19 violence including, but not limited to:

20 (a) Such model provisions as are recommended by the New York state
21 coalition against domestic violence, or its successor;

22 (b) For students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade: (i)
23 identification and examination of ideas about healthy relationships and
24 behaviors learned from the home, family and the media; (ii) self-esteem
25 and self-worth; and (iii) friendship and empathy;

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

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1 (c) For students in fifth grade through twelfth grade: (i) a defi-
2 inition of teen dating violence; (ii) recognition of warning signs exhib-
3 ited by a dating partner; (iii) characteristics of a healthy relation-
4 ship; (iv) links between bullying and teen dating violence; (v) safe use
5 of technology; (vi) safe and appropriate bystander skills and behaviors;
6 (vii) a discussion of local community resources for those in a teen
7 dating violence relationship; and (viii) an overview of the school's
8 policies and procedures on teen dating violence;

9 (d) Training programs for teachers, administrators, nurses, and mental
10 health staff from kindergarten through twelfth grade, which shall
11 include, but not be limited to, basic principles of dating violence,
12 risk factors and warning signs of dating violence and technological
13 dating abuse;

14 (e) Designation of at least one person as a prevention liaison who is
15 responsible for coordinating all teen dating violence and healthy
16 relationship initiatives. The prevention liaison shall receive training
17 on teen dating violence as required by the commissioner. The name and
18 contact information of the prevention liaison will be published on the
19 school district's website and in the school district's policies and
20 procedures on teen dating violence;

21 (f) Developing a response program to incidents of teen dating violence
22 and healthy relationship initiatives, which will include monitoring and
23 reporting components;

24 (g) Adopting a policy which shall include, but not be limited to, a
25 definition of dating violence, a statement that teen dating violence
26 will not be tolerated, guidelines for responding to incidents of dating
27 violence.

28 4. For the purposes of this section:

29 (a) "teen dating violence" means a pattern of power and control in
30 which one dating partner uses threats of and/or actually engages in
31 emotional, verbal, physical, sexual, financial and/or spiritual abuse in
32 order to harm, coerce, threaten, intimidate, control and/or isolate
33 another dating partner in a relationship of a romantic or intimate
34 nature.

35 (b) "dating partner" means any person regardless of gender involved in
36 an actual or perceived intimate relationship with another, regardless of
37 whether the relationship is continuing, former, casual, serious, or
38 long-term or the number of interactions between the individuals
39 involved.

40 (c) "threat" shall include those made through electronic means includ-
41 ing social media, text message, phone, email, and/or the internet.

42 5. The commissioner may administer directly or through contract, with-
43 in the amount of funds allocated and within amounts appropriated, the
44 teen dating violence prevention program.

45 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.