



2018 New York State YMCA

Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 5

Bill #: AF-35

1 **Sponsors:** Patrick Barnett, Andrew Bilotti, Alexandra Lake, and Katie Lindley

2
3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Article 55, § 2801-a of the New York State Education Law by adding
5 subsection § 2801-g to implement mandatory suicide prevention training.

6
7 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and***
8 ***Assembly do enact as follows:***

9
10 **Purpose**

11 The purpose of this bill is to implement mandatory annual suicide prevention
12 training for teachers, principals, and guidance counselors working with grades
13 seven through twelve.

14
15 **Summary of Provisions**

16 **Section 1: Definitions**

17 **Annual Suicide Prevention Training:** the training includes the seven elements of
18 zero Suicide which are Leadership-driven, safety-oriented culture committed to
19 reduce suicides among people under care, Develop a workforce with suicide-specific
20 expertise, Identify and assess suicide risk among people receiving care, Use
21 evidence-based treatments that target suicidal thoughts and behaviors, Care
22 transitions; follow-up contact and support, especially after acute care, and apply a
23 data-driven CQI to inform system.

24 **Section 2:**

25 § 2801-a. Such comprehensive district-wide safety plan shall be developed by the
26 district-wide school safety team and shall include at a minimum:

27 a. policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by
28 students, teachers, other school personnel as well as visitors to the school,
29 including threats by students against themselves, which for the purposes of this
30 section shall include suicide

31 b. policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers,
32 other school personnel as well as visitors to the school, including consideration of
33 zero-tolerance policies for school violence;

34 c. appropriate prevention and intervention strategies such as:

35 (i) collaborative arrangements with state and local law enforcement officials,
36 designed to ensure that school safety officers and other security personnel are
37 adequately trained, including being trained to de-escalate potentially violent
38 situations, and are effectively and fairly recruited;

39 (ii) non-violent conflict resolution training programs;

40 (iii) peer mediation programs and youth courts; and

41 (iv) extended day and other school safety programs;

42 d. policies and procedures for contacting appropriate law enforcement officials in
43 the event of a violent incident;

44 e. policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental
45 relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident and policies
46 and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to
47 an individual student of the district in the event of an implied or direct threat of
48 violence by such student against themselves, which for purposes of this section
49 shall include suicide;
50 f. policies and procedures relating to school building security, including where
51 appropriate the use of school safety officers and/or security devices or procedures;
52 g. All school administration is required to receive mandatory annual suicide
53 prevention training based off of the Jason Flatt Act for teachers and administrators
54 of grades 7-12.
55

56 **Justification**

57 By mandating annual suicide prevention training, this bill will help provide a less
58 stressful environment in the form of aid from trusted positions of authority. The
59 mandating of said suicide prevention training will be used to enforce the safety of
60 students and recognize any dangers that may surface in the form of symptoms of
61 depression, suicide ideation, or extreme stress. Mental illness, stress, pressure, and
62 psychological pain are just a few of the many motivating factors that lead teens to
63 consider suicide-all of which can be found in school environments. If students feel
64 helpless, trapped, or alone, they will be more likely to consider death as their only
65 escape. Mandated annual suicide prevention training will give students other
66 options: they will no longer feel desperate if they know that the people looking after
67 them for more than six hours a day are trained to spot their subtle and not-so-
68 subtle cries for help. New York state has a suicide prevention plan called "1700 Too
69 Many" where administrative worries are expressed regarding teen suicide to
70 achieve the goals in the program the Jason Flatt Act which provides materials about
71 youth suicide prevention.
72

73 **Fiscal Implications**

74 School districts will be required to acquire the free materials from the Jason Flatt
75 foundation. Suicides cost an average of 1 million dollars, the administration of the
76 free materials provided by the Jason Flatt will reduce the overall costs of suicides
77 because there will be less youth taking their own lives.
78

79 **Effective Date**

80 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.