

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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6832--B

Cal. No. 79

2005-2006 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 24, 2005

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Introduced by M. of A. MAGNARELLI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Rules in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- Rules Committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to the Committee on Rules -- Rules Committee discharged and committed to the Committee on Education -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to education regarding shaken baby syndrome

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

- 1 Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 804-b of the education law, as  
2 added by chapter 76 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows:  
3 3. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to estab-  
4 lish a curriculum for instruction regarding child development and  
5 parental skills and responsibility for the welfare of pupils and the  
6 community to be available in school districts. The contents may be  
7 varied to meet the needs of particular school districts, or portions  
8 thereof, and need not be uniform throughout the state; such curriculum  
9 may include instruction relating to the consequences and prevention of  
10 shaken baby syndrome, which may include the viewing of a video presenta-  
11 tion for students in secondary schools.  
12 § 2. This act shall take effect September 1, 2007.

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

LBD10047-04-6

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### NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)

BILL NUMBER: A6832B

SPONSOR: Magnarelli

**TITLE OF BILL:** An act to amend the education law, in relation to education regarding shaken baby syndrome

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:** The bill states that the parenting skills curriculum in secondary schools may include instruction relating to the consequences and prevention of shaken baby syndrome. This education may include the showing of a video on this topic.

**EXISTING LA W:** Pursuant to New York Education Law 804-B, schools are authorized to include instruction regarding child development and parental skills and responsibilities. Under State regulation, 8 NYCRR Part 100.5(a)(3)(v1), all students entering grade 9 in Fall 2001 and thereafter are required to receive parenting education prior to their graduation.

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:**

The bill states that the parenting skills curriculum may include information about Shaken Baby Syndrome. This information may include material on the consequences of these problems and strategies for prevention, including the showing of a video.

**JUSTIFICATION:** While preserving latitude for the State Education Department and individual districts to define what "parenting skills" means, this bill represents an effort to combat the incidence of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) through education and awareness by stating that SBS prevention may be an integral part of the parenting skills curriculum.

SBS is a dangerous but preventable condition. One of every four shaken babies will die; two out of every four who live will suffer from brain injuries that cause comas, paralysis, seizures or blindness. The average age of an SBS victim is 3-8 months, although injury may happen as late as age 5, and the most common perpetrators are males ages 24-27. Despite these facts, it is estimated that as many as half of all Americans do not realize the danger caused by shaking a baby. Education is therefore the key to preventing incidence of SBS.

Educating secondary school children about SBS prevention makes sense because, apart from being potential future parents, many of these students babysit or help care for young children after school and on weekends. Furthermore, showing a video in secondary schools ensures that "males in the household," other than fathers, receive education about SBS prevention. A study published in Pediatrics last November by researchers from the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Chicago found that young children who live in households with one or more unrelated adults face a risk of dying from an inflicted injury, including SBS, that is 50 times as high as children living with two biological parents.

The incidence of SBS is decreasing as more new parents are shown an educational video in the hospital, but the problem has not disappeared. We should reach out to young people now so that they are prepared to deal with the stress of caring for young children.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: Similar to All145 of 2003-04. This bill is less restrictive regarding course content.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall take effect September 1, 2007.

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