

**18A:37-33 et al.**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

**LAWS OF:** 2011                      **CHAPTER:** 64

**NJSA:** 18A:37-33 et al. (Directs the Department of Education to develop a school district dating violence policy and requires school districts to provide dating violence education in the health curriculum)

**BILL NO:** A2920 (Substituted for S2114)

**SPONSOR(S)** Wolfe and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** June 14, 2010

**COMMITTEE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Education

**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:**      Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** March 14, 2011

**SENATE:** March 21, 2011

**DATE OF APPROVAL:**                      May 4, 2011

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (Third reprint enacted)

**A2920**

<b>SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:</b> (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill)	Yes
<b>COMMITTEE STATEMENT:</b>	
<b>ASSEMBLY:</b>	Yes
<b>SENATE:</b>	No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

<b>FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:</b>	Yes	1-10-11
		2-17-11
<b>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE:</b>	No	

**S2114**

<b>SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:</b> (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill)	Yes
<b>COMMITTEE STATEMENT:</b>	
<b>ASSEMBLY:</b>	No
<b>SENATE:</b>	Yes
<b>FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:</b>	No
<b>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE:</b>	No

(continued)

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

LAW/RWH

P.L.2011, CHAPTER 64, *approved May 4, 2011*  
Assembly, No. 2920 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning dating violence policy and education in public  
2 school districts and supplementing chapter 35 and chapter 37 of  
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: a safe and civil  
9 environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve  
10 high academic standards; a student who is a victim of dating  
11 violence suffers academically, and the student's safety at school is  
12 jeopardized; and since all students have a right to learn and study in  
13 a safe, supportive environment that is free from violence, each  
14 school district should have a policy to prevent, and for responding  
15 to, incidents of dating violence, and should provide dating violence  
16 education to students in order to prevent dating violence and  
17 address incidents involving dating violence.

18  
19 2. As used in this act:

20 "At school" means in a classroom or anywhere on school  
21 property <sup>3</sup>[or immediately adjacent to school property]<sup>3</sup>, on a  
22 school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus  
23 stop, or at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it  
24 is on school grounds.

25 "Dating partner" means any person involved in an intimate  
26 association with another individual that is primarily characterized  
27 by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual,  
28 serious, or long-term.

29 "Dating violence" means a pattern of behavior where one person  
30 threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or  
31 emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

32  
33 3. a. The Department of Education shall establish a task force  
34 to develop a policy to address incidents of dating violence involving  
35 students at school. The task force shall include members who have  
36 expertise in issues relating to dating violence. The policy shall  
37 contain, at a minimum, the following components:

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted September 16, 2010.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted January 10, 2011.

<sup>3</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted February 17, 2011.

- 1 (1) a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
- 2 (2) dating violence reporting procedures;
- 3 (3) guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating
- 4 violence; <sup>2</sup>~~and~~<sup>2</sup>
- 5 (4) discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of
- 6 dating violence <sup>2</sup>;
- 7 (5) warning signs of dating violence; and
- 8 (6) information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and
- 9 community resources available to address dating violence<sup>2</sup> .
- 10 b. Each school district shall implement 'either' the policy
- 11 developed by the department <sup>1</sup>~~], except that the district may, at its~~
- 12 ~~discretion, make adjustments to the policy] or a dating violence~~
- 13 ~~policy developed by the district. In the event that a district~~
- 14 ~~determines to develop its policy, the policy shall contain, at a~~
- 15 ~~minimum, the components required pursuant to paragraphs (1)~~
- 16 ~~through <sup>2</sup>~~(4)~~ ~~(6)~~<sup>2</sup> of subsection a. of this section~~<sup>1</sup> .
- 17 c. Notice of the policy implemented by the school district shall
- 18 appear in any publication of the district that sets forth the
- 19 comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for
- 20 schools within the district, and in any student handbook.
- 21
- 22 4. <sup>2</sup>~~a.~~<sup>2</sup> The Department of Education shall <sup>2</sup>~~develop]~~
- 23 ~~recommend educational resources on~~<sup>2</sup> dating violence <sup>2</sup>~~training~~
- 24 ~~materials]~~<sup>2</sup> and shall post these materials on its website. <sup>2</sup>~~The~~
- 25 ~~dating violence training materials shall include, at a minimum, the~~
- 26 ~~following components:~~
- 27 (1) basic principles of dating violence;
- 28 (2) warning signs of dating violence; and
- 29 (3) information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and
- 30 community resources available to address dating violence.
- 31 b. Each school district shall provide the dating violence
- 32 training materials developed by the department to school district
- 33 staff who have significant contact with students to ensure that they
- 34 are able to appropriately respond to incidents of dating violence.
- 35 Other administrators, teachers, and school district staff shall be
- 36 made aware of the training materials.
- 37 c. Each school district shall inform the parents or guardians of
- 38 students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of the school district's
- 39 dating violence policy. If requested, the school district shall
- 40 provide the parents or guardians with the school district's dating
- 41 violence policy and relevant information.<sup>2</sup>
- 42
- 43 5. The provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the
- 44 Legislature as this bill) shall not be interpreted to prevent a victim
- 45 from seeking redress under any other available law, either civil or
- 46 criminal, and does not create or alter any tort liability.

1       6. a. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school  
2 district shall incorporate dating violence education that is age  
3 appropriate into the health education curriculum as part of the  
4 district's implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards  
5 in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education for students in  
6 grades 7 through 12. <sup>2</sup>【Each school district shall transmit a copy of  
7 its curriculum to the Department of Education by December 1,  
8 2010.】<sup>2</sup>

9       b. The dating violence education shall include, but not be  
10 limited to, information on the definition of dating violence,  
11 recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the characteristics  
12 of healthy relationships. <sup>2</sup>【The school district shall provide  
13 students with the dating violence policy developed pursuant to  
14 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
15 bill).】<sup>2</sup>

16       c. To assist school districts in developing a dating violence  
17 education program, the Department of Education shall <sup>2</sup>【review and  
18 approve the grade level learning objectives relating to dating  
19 violence and healthy relationships】 recommend educational  
20 resources on dating violence<sup>2</sup> .

21       d. Upon written request to the school principal, a parent or  
22 legal guardian of a student less than 18 years of age, shall be  
23 permitted within a reasonable period of time after the request is  
24 made, to examine the dating violence education program instruction  
25 materials developed by the school district.

26       e. As used in this section:

27       <sup>2</sup>【“At school” means in a classroom or anywhere on school  
28 property or immediately adjacent to school property, on a school  
29 bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or  
30 at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on  
31 school grounds.】<sup>2</sup>

32       “Dating partner” means any person involved in an intimate  
33 association with another individual that is primarily characterized  
34 by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual,  
35 serious, or long-term.

36       “Dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person  
37 threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or  
38 emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

39

40       7. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

44

45       Directs the Department of Education to develop a school district  
46 dating violence policy and requires school districts to provide  
47 dating violence education in the health curriculum.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2920

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE**

**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL**

**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris)**

**Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs the Department of Education to develop a school district dating violence policy and requires school districts to provide dating violence education in the health curriculum.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/18/2010)**

1 AN ACT concerning dating violence policy and education in public  
2 school districts and supplementing chapter 35 and chapter 37 of  
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: a safe and civil  
9 environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve  
10 high academic standards; a student who is a victim of dating  
11 violence suffers academically, and the student's safety at school is  
12 jeopardized; and since all students have a right to learn and study in  
13 a safe, supportive environment that is free from violence, each  
14 school district should have a policy to prevent, and for responding  
15 to, incidents of dating violence, and should provide dating violence  
16 education to students in order to prevent dating violence and  
17 address incidents involving dating violence.

18  
19 2. As used in this act:

20 "At school" means in a classroom or anywhere on school  
21 property or immediately adjacent to school property, on a school  
22 bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or  
23 at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on  
24 school grounds.

25 "Dating partner" means any person involved in an intimate  
26 association with another individual that is primarily characterized  
27 by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual,  
28 serious, or long-term.

29 "Dating violence" means a pattern of behavior where one person  
30 threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or  
31 emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

32  
33 3. a. The Department of Education shall establish a task force  
34 to develop a policy to address incidents of dating violence involving  
35 students at school. The task force shall include members who have  
36 expertise in issues relating to dating violence. The policy shall  
37 contain, at a minimum, the following components:

- 38 (1) a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;  
39 (2) dating violence reporting procedures;  
40 (3) guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating  
41 violence; and  
42 (4) discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of  
43 dating violence.

44 b. Each school district shall implement the policy developed by  
45 the department, except that the district may, at its discretion, make  
46 adjustments to the policy.

47 c. Notice of the policy implemented by the school district shall  
48 appear in any publication of the district that sets forth the

1 comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for  
2 schools within the district, and in any student handbook.

3

4 4. a. The Department of Education shall develop dating  
5 violence training materials and shall post these materials on its  
6 website. The dating violence training materials shall include, at a  
7 minimum, the following components:

8 (1) basic principles of dating violence;

9 (2) warning signs of dating violence; and

10 (3) information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and  
11 community resources available to address dating violence.

12 b. Each school district shall provide the dating violence  
13 training materials developed by the department to school district  
14 staff who have significant contact with students to ensure that they  
15 are able to appropriately respond to incidents of dating violence.  
16 Other administrators, teachers, and school district staff shall be  
17 made aware of the training materials.

18 c. Each school district shall inform the parents or guardians of  
19 students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of the school district's  
20 dating violence policy. If requested, the school district shall  
21 provide the parents or guardians with the school district's dating  
22 violence policy and relevant information.

23

24 5. The provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
25 Legislature as this bill) shall not be interpreted to prevent a victim  
26 from seeking redress under any other available law, either civil or  
27 criminal, and does not create or alter any tort liability.

28

29 6. a. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school  
30 district shall incorporate dating violence education that is age  
31 appropriate into the health education curriculum as part of the  
32 district's implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards  
33 in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education for students in  
34 grades 7 through 12. Each school district shall transmit a copy of  
35 its curriculum to the Department of Education by December 1,  
36 2010.

37 b. The dating violence education shall include, but not be  
38 limited to, information on the definition of dating violence,  
39 recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the characteristics  
40 of healthy relationships. The school district shall provide students  
41 with the dating violence policy developed pursuant to section 3 of  
42 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43 c. To assist school districts in developing a dating violence  
44 education program, the Department of Education shall review and  
45 approve the grade level learning objectives relating to dating  
46 violence and healthy relationships.

47 d. Upon written request to the school principal, a parent or  
48 legal guardian of a student less than 18 years of age, shall be



1 permitted within a reasonable period of time after the request is  
2 made, to examine the dating violence education program instruction  
3 materials developed by the school district.

4 e. As used in this section:

5 “At school” means in a classroom or anywhere on school  
6 property or immediately adjacent to school property, on a school  
7 bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or  
8 at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on  
9 school grounds.

10 “Dating partner” means any person involved in an intimate  
11 association with another individual that is primarily characterized  
12 by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual,  
13 serious, or long-term.

14 “Dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person  
15 threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or  
16 emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

17

18 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

19

20

21

#### STATEMENT

22

23 This bill requires the Department of Education to establish a task  
24 force to develop a policy to prevent and address dating violence at  
25 school and requires school districts to incorporate age appropriate  
26 dating violence education into the health education curriculum.  
27 “Dating violence” is defined in the bill to mean a pattern of  
28 behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses  
29 physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating  
30 partner. “Dating partner” is defined in the bill to mean any person  
31 involved in an intimate association with another individual that is  
32 primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate  
33 involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.

34 Under the bill, each school district will implement the policy  
35 developed by the task force. The policy must contain, at a  
36 minimum, the following components:

- 37 - a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
- 38 - dating violence reporting procedures;
- 39 - guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating  
40 violence; and
- 41 - discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating  
42 violence.

43 The bill also requires the department to develop dating violence  
44 training materials to be posted on its website. Each school district  
45 will provide the dating violence training materials to school district  
46 staff who have significant contact with students to ensure that they  
47 are able to appropriately respond to incidents of dating violence.  
48 One of the components of the training materials will be to provide

**A2920 WOLFE, VOSS**

5

1 information on appropriate school, family, peer, and community  
2 resources available to address dating violence.

3 Finally, the bill requires a board of education to incorporate  
4 dating violence education that is age appropriate into the health  
5 education curriculum as part of the district's implementation of the  
6 Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and  
7 Physical Education for students in grades 7 through 12. The dating  
8 violence education will include information on the definition of  
9 dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the  
10 characteristics of healthy relationships.

# ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 2920**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2920 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Education to establish a task force to develop a policy to prevent and address dating violence at school and requires school districts to incorporate age appropriate dating violence education into the health education curriculum. "Dating violence" is defined in the bill to mean a pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

Under the bill, each school district will implement either the policy developed by the department through the task force or a policy developed by the district. The adopted policy must contain, at a minimum, the following components:

- a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
- dating violence reporting procedures;
- guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating violence; and
- discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating violence.

The bill also requires the department to develop dating violence training materials to be posted on its website. Each school district will provide the dating violence training materials to school district staff who have significant contact with students to ensure that they are able to appropriately respond to incidents of dating violence. One of the components of the training materials will be to provide information on appropriate school, family, peer, and community resources available to address dating violence.

Finally, the bill requires a board of education to incorporate dating violence education that is age appropriate into the health education curriculum as part of the district's implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education for students in grades 7 through 12. The dating violence education will include information on the definition of dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

The committee amended the bill to allow a school district to adopt either the dating violence policy developed by the department through the task force or a dating violence policy developed by the school district. The bill in its original form required a school district to adopt the policy developed by the department.

STATEMENT TO  
[First Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2920**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Assemblyman WOLFE)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 10, 2011

These floor amendments:

- provide that the policy on dating violence developed by the Department of Education (DOE) include information on the warning signs of dating violence and community resources available to address dating violence;
- replace the requirement that DOE develop dating violence training materials with a requirement that DOE recommend educational resources on the topic;
- eliminate the requirements that a school district: 1) provide dating violence training material to staff; 2) inform parents or guardians of students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of the district's dating violence policy; 3) transmit a copy of the dating violence curriculum to DOE for review and approval; or 4) provide students with a copy of the dating violence policy; and
- make a technical amendment deleting the definition of "at school" in section 6 as it is not necessary.

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2920**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Assemblyman WOLFE)

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2011

The floor amendment eliminates language in the definition of “at school” that would have required school districts to monitor incidents of dating violence taking place off school grounds on property “immediately adjacent to school property.”

# SENATE, No. 2114

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANDREW R. CIESLA**  
**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**  
**Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO**  
**District 25 (Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Weinberg and Allen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs the Department of Education to develop a school district dating violence policy and requires school districts to provide dating violence education in the health curriculum.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/8/2011)

1 AN ACT concerning dating violence policy and education in public  
2 school districts and supplementing chapter 35 and chapter 37 of  
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: a safe and civil  
9 environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve  
10 high academic standards; a student who is a victim of dating  
11 violence suffers academically, and the student's safety at school is  
12 jeopardized; and since all students have a right to learn and study in  
13 a safe, supportive environment that is free from violence, each  
14 school district should have a policy to prevent, and for responding  
15 to, incidents of dating violence, and should provide dating violence  
16 education to students in order to prevent dating violence and  
17 address incidents involving dating violence.

18  
19 2. As used in this act:

20 "At school" means in a classroom or anywhere on school  
21 property or immediately adjacent to school property, on a school  
22 bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or  
23 at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on  
24 school grounds.

25 "Dating partner" means any person involved in an intimate  
26 association with another individual that is primarily characterized  
27 by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual,  
28 serious, or long-term.

29 "Dating violence" means a pattern of behavior where one person  
30 threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or  
31 emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

32  
33 3. a. The Department of Education shall establish a task force  
34 to develop a policy to address incidents of dating violence involving  
35 students at school. The task force shall include members who have  
36 expertise in issues relating to dating violence. The policy shall  
37 contain, at a minimum, the following components:

- 38 (1) a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;  
39 (2) dating violence reporting procedures;  
40 (3) guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating  
41 violence; and  
42 (4) discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of  
43 dating violence.

44 b. Each school district shall implement the policy developed by  
45 the department, except that the district may, at its discretion, make  
46 adjustments to the policy.

47 c. Notice of the policy implemented by the school district shall  
48 appear in any publication of the district that sets forth the



1 comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for  
2 schools within the district, and in any student handbook.

3

4 4. a. The Department of Education shall develop dating  
5 violence training materials and shall post these materials on its  
6 website. The dating violence training materials shall include, at a  
7 minimum, the following components:

8 (1) basic principles of dating violence;

9 (2) warning signs of dating violence; and

10 (3) information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and  
11 community resources available to address dating violence.

12 b. Each school district shall provide the dating violence  
13 training materials developed by the department to school district  
14 staff who have significant contact with students to ensure that they  
15 are able to appropriately respond to incidents of dating violence.  
16 Other administrators, teachers, and school district staff shall be  
17 made aware of the training materials.

18 c. Each school district shall inform the parents or guardians of  
19 students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of the school district's  
20 dating violence policy. If requested, the school district shall  
21 provide the parents or guardians with the school district's dating  
22 violence policy and relevant information.

23

24 5. The provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
25 Legislature as this bill) shall not be interpreted to prevent a victim  
26 from seeking redress under any other available law, either civil or  
27 criminal, and does not create or alter any tort liability.

28

29 6. a. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school  
30 district shall incorporate dating violence education that is age  
31 appropriate into the health education curriculum as part of the  
32 district's implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards  
33 in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education for students in  
34 grades 7 through 12. Each school district shall transmit a copy of  
35 its curriculum to the Department of Education by December 1,  
36 2010.

37 b. The dating violence education shall include, but not be  
38 limited to, information on the definition of dating violence,  
39 recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the characteristics  
40 of healthy relationships. The school district shall provide students  
41 with the dating violence policy developed pursuant to section 3 of  
42 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43 c. To assist school districts in developing a dating violence  
44 education program, the Department of Education shall review and  
45 approve the grade level learning objectives relating to dating  
46 violence and healthy relationships.

47 d. Upon written request to the school principal, a parent or  
48 legal guardian of a student less than 18 years of age, shall be

1 permitted within a reasonable period of time after the request is  
2 made, to examine the dating violence education program instruction  
3 materials developed by the school district.

4 e. As used in this section:

5 “At school” means in a classroom or anywhere on school  
6 property or immediately adjacent to school property, on a school  
7 bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or  
8 at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on  
9 school grounds.

10 “Dating partner” means any person involved in an intimate  
11 association with another individual that is primarily characterized  
12 by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual,  
13 serious, or long-term.

14 “Dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person  
15 threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or  
16 emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

17

18 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

19

20

21

#### STATEMENT

22

23 This bill requires the Department of Education to establish a task  
24 force to develop a policy to prevent and address dating violence at  
25 school and requires school districts to incorporate age appropriate  
26 dating violence education into the health education curriculum.  
27 “Dating violence” is defined in the bill to mean a pattern of  
28 behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses  
29 physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating  
30 partner. “Dating partner” is defined in the bill to mean any person  
31 involved in an intimate association with another individual that is  
32 primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate  
33 involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.

34 Under the bill, each school district will implement the policy  
35 developed by the task force. The policy must contain, at a  
36 minimum, the following components:

- 37 - a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
- 38 - dating violence reporting procedures;
- 39 - guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating  
40 violence; and
- 41 - discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating  
42 violence.

43 The bill also requires the department to develop dating violence  
44 training materials to be posted on its website. Each school district  
45 will provide the dating violence training materials to school district  
46 staff who have significant contact with students to ensure that they  
47 are able to appropriately respond to incidents of dating violence.  
48 One of the components of the training materials will be to provide

1 information on appropriate school, family, peer, and community  
2 resources available to address dating violence.

3 Finally, the bill requires a board of education to incorporate  
4 dating violence education that is age appropriate into the health  
5 education curriculum as part of the district's implementation of the  
6 Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and  
7 Physical Education for students in grades 7 through 12. The dating  
8 violence education will include information on the definition of  
9 dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the  
10 characteristics of healthy relationships.

# SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2114**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 31, 2011

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2114 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Education to establish a task force to develop a policy to prevent and address dating violence at school and requires school districts to incorporate age appropriate dating violence education into the health education curriculum. "Dating violence" is defined in the bill to mean a pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating partner. "Dating partner" is defined in the bill to mean any person involved in an intimate association with another individual that is primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.

Under the bill, each school district will implement either the policy developed by the department through the task force or a policy developed by the district. The district is required to provide notice of the policy in: 1) any district publication setting forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for schools within the district; and 2) in any student handbook. The policy must contain, at a minimum, the following components:

- a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated;
- dating violence reporting procedures;
- guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating violence;
- discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating violence;
- warning signs of dating violence; and
- information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and community resources available to address dating violence.

The bill also requires the department to recommend educational resources on dating violence and post these materials on its website.

Finally, the bill requires a board of education to incorporate dating violence education that is age appropriate into the health education curriculum as part of the district's implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical

Education for students in grades 7 through 12. The dating violence education will include information on the definition of dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

The committee amended the bill to:

- Allow a school district to implement either the dating violence policy developed by the Department of Education through the task force or a policy developed by the school district itself. The bill in its original form required a school district to implement the dating violence policy developed by the department, but allowed the district to make adjustments to that policy;
- Eliminate language in the definition of “at school” that would have required school districts to monitor incidents of dating violence taking place off school grounds on property “immediately adjacent to school property”;
- Provide that, in addition to the components originally set forth in the bill, a policy on dating violence include: 1) information on the warning signs of dating violence; and 2) community resources available to address dating violence;
- Replace the requirement that the department develop dating violence training materials with a requirement that the department recommend educational resources on the topic;
- Eliminate the requirements that a school district: 1) provide dating violence training material to staff; 2) inform parents or guardians of students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of the district’s dating violence policy; 3) transmit a copy of the dating violence curriculum to the department for review and approval; or 4) provide students with a copy of the dating violence policy; and
- Make a technical amendment deleting the definition of “at school” in section 6, as it is not necessary.