

18A:40-44 & 18A:40-45
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2013 **CHAPTER:** 146

NJSA: 18A:40-44 & 18A:40-45 (Requires DOE to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence)

BILL NO: S2715 (Substituted for A4094)

SPONSOR(S) Lesniak and others

DATE INTRODUCED: April 25, 2013

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Budget
SENATE: Law and Public Safety
Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 24, 2013

SENATE: May 13, 2013

DATE OF APPROVAL: August 19, 2013

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted) Yes

S2715

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT (Begins on page 3 of introduced bill): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes Law and Public Safety
Budget and Appropriations

(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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

A4094

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 introduced bill): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(continued)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
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:	Yes
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

The New Jersey SAFE Task Force on Gun Protection, Addiction, Mental Health and Families, and Educational Safety:
Report to Governor Chris Christie.
[Trenton, N.J.] : [Office of the Attorney General], 2013.
Call number 974.90 W363 2013
<http://hdl.handle.net/10929/34559>

LAW/RWH

Title 18A.
Chapter 40.
Article 12.(New)
Information on
Media Violence.
§§1,2 -
C.18A:40-44 &
18A:40-45

P.L.2013, CHAPTER 146, *approved August 19, 2013*
Senate, No. 2715

1 AN ACT concerning a child's exposure to media violence and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Education shall prepare and make
8 available on the department's Internet website, both in print and in
9 an easily printable format, information on how a parent can limit a
10 child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers,
11 and other electronic devices. The department shall update this
12 information whenever new information about a child's exposure to
13 violence on television and other electronic devices becomes
14 available. The information shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (1) research and statistics on how violent behavior increases
16 after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games;

17 (2) scientific findings that show children who play violent video
18 games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with
19 classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to
20 relate to adults in positions of authority;

21 (3) factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of
22 violent behavior, including, but not limited to, exposure or
23 involvement in violence at critical stages of childhood development,
24 poor socioeconomic conditions, and poor parenting skills;

25 (4) symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence, including,
26 but not limited to, sleeplessness, anxiety, depression, feelings of
27 hopelessness, truancy, and difficulty in school;

28 (5) predictors of violent behavior in children, including but not
29 limited to, dishonesty, disobedience, favorable attitude toward
30 violence, hostility toward police, substance abuse, aggressive or
31 antisocial behavior, and involvement in nonviolent criminal
32 offenses; and

33 (6) effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of
34 development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's
35 exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices,
36 including, but not limited to, the use of screening software or other
37 technologies that prevent a child from watching television programs

1 a parent deems inappropriate, co-viewing and commenting on
2 television programs that depict violence, and familiarization with
3 video game advisory labels and rating systems that make it more
4 difficult for children to purchase and play such games.

5 b. The department shall prepare an informational pamphlet that
6 contains the information posted on its website pursuant to
7 subsection a. of this section, and shall update the pamphlet as
8 necessary. The department shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
9 charge, to all school districts in the State, and shall make additional
10 copies available to nonpublic schools upon request.

11 c. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year
12 thereafter, each school district shall distribute the pamphlet to the
13 parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.

14
15 2. The Department of Education, pursuant to the
16 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
17 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
18 this act.

19
20 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

21 22 23 STATEMENT

24
25 The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of
26 18, the average American child will have viewed 200,000 acts of
27 violence on television. Moreover, exposure to, or involvement in,
28 violence can disrupt normal childhood development and profoundly
29 effect a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being.
30 According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent
31 Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, and the Media
32 Awareness Network, extensive viewing of violence on television
33 and other electronic devices leads to greater aggressiveness in
34 children. As adults, children exposed to such violence are more
35 likely to commit serious crimes, use violence to discipline their own
36 children, and treat spouses in an aggressive manner.

37 This bill, therefore, requires the Department of Education (DOE)
38 to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website,
39 information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence
40 on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices.
41 DOE would update this information whenever new information
42 about a child's exposure to violence on television and other
43 electronic devices becomes available.

44 The information would include, but not be limited to: research
45 and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to
46 violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings
47 that show children who play violent video games are more likely to
48 be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly

1 on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of
2 authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk
3 of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to
4 violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective
5 strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will
6 help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on
7 television and other electronic devices

8 DOE would prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the
9 information posted on its website pursuant to the provisions of the
10 bill and update the pamphlet as necessary. The department would
11 distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the
12 State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools
13 upon request. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year
14 thereafter, each school district would distribute the pamphlet to the
15 parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.

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19

20 Requires DOE to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets
21 on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence.

SENATE, No. 2715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 25, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK

District 20 (Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman SEAN T. KEAN

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Greenstein, Pou, Stack and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/25/2013)

1 AN ACT concerning a child's exposure to media violence and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Education shall prepare and make
8 available on the department's Internet website, both in print and in
9 an easily printable format, information on how a parent can limit a
10 child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers,
11 and other electronic devices. The department shall update this
12 information whenever new information about a child's exposure to
13 violence on television and other electronic devices becomes
14 available. The information shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (1) research and statistics on how violent behavior increases
16 after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games;

17 (2) scientific findings that show children who play violent video
18 games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with
19 classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to
20 relate to adults in positions of authority;

21 (3) factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of
22 violent behavior, including, but not limited to, exposure or
23 involvement in violence at critical stages of childhood development,
24 poor socioeconomic conditions, and poor parenting skills;

25 (4) symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence, including,
26 but not limited to, sleeplessness, anxiety, depression, feelings of
27 hopelessness, truancy, and difficulty in school;

28 (5) predictors of violent behavior in children, including but not
29 limited to, dishonesty, disobedience, favorable attitude toward
30 violence, hostility toward police, substance abuse, aggressive or
31 antisocial behavior, and involvement in nonviolent criminal
32 offenses; and

33 (6) effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of
34 development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's
35 exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices,
36 including, but not limited to, the use of screening software or other
37 technologies that prevent a child from watching television programs
38 a parent deems inappropriate, co-viewing and commenting on
39 television programs that depict violence, and familiarization with
40 video game advisory labels and rating systems that make it more
41 difficult for children to purchase and play such games.

42 b. The department shall prepare an informational pamphlet that
43 contains the information posted on its website pursuant to
44 subsection a. of this section, and shall update the pamphlet as
45 necessary. The department shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
46 charge, to all school districts in the State, and shall make additional
47 copies available to nonpublic schools upon request.

1 c. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year
2 thereafter, each school district shall distribute the pamphlet to the
3 parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.
4

5 2. The Department of Education, pursuant to the
6 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
7 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
8 this act.
9

10 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
11
12

13 STATEMENT
14

15 The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of
16 18, the average American child will have viewed 200,000 acts of
17 violence on television. Moreover, exposure to, or involvement in,
18 violence can disrupt normal childhood development and profoundly
19 effect a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being.
20 According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent
21 Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, and the Media
22 Awareness Network, extensive viewing of violence on television
23 and other electronic devices leads to greater aggressiveness in
24 children. As adults, children exposed to such violence are more
25 likely to commit serious crimes, use violence to discipline their own
26 children, and treat spouses in an aggressive manner.

27 This bill, therefore, requires the Department of Education (DOE)
28 to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website,
29 information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence
30 on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices.
31 DOE would update this information whenever new information
32 about a child's exposure to violence on television and other
33 electronic devices becomes available.

34 The information would include, but not be limited to: research
35 and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to
36 violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings
37 that show children who play violent video games are more likely to
38 be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly
39 on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of
40 authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk
41 of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to
42 violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective
43 strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will
44 help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on
45 television and other electronic devices

46 DOE would prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the
47 information posted on its website pursuant to the provisions of the
48 bill and update the pamphlet as necessary. The department would

S2715 LESNIAK, RUIZ

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1 distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the
2 State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools
3 upon request. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year
4 thereafter, each school district would distribute the pamphlet to the
5 parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 2, 2013

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2715.

This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website, information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices. DOE would update this information whenever new information about a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices becomes available.

The information would include, but not be limited to: research and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings that show children who play violent video games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices.

DOE would prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the information posted on its website pursuant to the provisions of the bill and update the pamphlet as necessary. The department would distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools upon request. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year thereafter, each school district would distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of 18, the average American child will have viewed 200,000 acts of violence on television. Moreover, exposure to, or involvement in, violence can disrupt normal childhood development and profoundly affect a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, and the Media Awareness Network, extensive viewing of violence on television and other electronic

devices leads to greater aggressiveness in children. As adults, children exposed to such violence are more likely to commit serious crimes, use violence to discipline their own children, and treat spouses in an aggressive manner.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 2715
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 8, 2013

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires DOE to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence.

Type of Impact: Expenditure Increase in General Fund

Agencies Affected: Department of Education

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Minimal Expenditure Increase – See comments below		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) anticipates that Senate Bill No. 2715 of 2013 would lead to a minimal expenditure increase in the Department of Education. It is plausible that the department may be required to enter into a contract with an external expert to gather the necessary information. Based on existing State contracts for printing, it appears that the department may incur up to \$50,000 in printing costs annually. The department would likely incur additional costs distributing the pamphlets to school districts.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 2715 of 2013 requires the Department of Education to prepare information on how parents can limit children's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices. The information would include, but need not be limited to, research on the effects of exposure to violent behavior or playing violent video games, symptoms of overexposure to violence, predictors of violent behavior in children, and effective strategies for monitoring or restricting exposure to violence on television or other electronic devices. The information will be posted on the department's website and included in an informational pamphlet that will be distributed to each school district, and, upon request, to nonpublic schools. School districts will then distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students enrolled in the district's schools.

FISCAL ANALYSIS***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services anticipates that Senate Bill No. 2715 of 2013 will lead to a minimal expenditure increase due to three factors. First, it is plausible that the department would require external expertise in the first year to ensure that all information included on its website and in the pamphlet is accurate and based on scientifically-sound research. Second, the department would incur printing costs each year. According to the 2011 American Community Survey, there are approximately one million families in New Jersey with children under the age of 18, suggesting that the department would be required to print approximately one million pamphlets each year. The cost of printing the pamphlets will be contingent on a number of factors, such as size of the pamphlets and the quality of the paper on which it is printed. However, existing State contracts for printing suggest that it is possible to print 1,000 pamphlets for approximately \$50, suggesting that the department would be able to have a sufficient quantity of pamphlets printed for \$50,000. Third, it is likely that the department would incur additional costs distributing the pamphlets to school districts and nonpublic schools.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Lead Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 9, 2013

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2715.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website, information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices. DOE would update this information whenever new information about a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices becomes available.

The information would include, but not be limited to: research and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings that show children who play violent video games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices

DOE would prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the information posted on its website pursuant to the provisions of the bill and update the pamphlet as necessary. The department would distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools upon request. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year thereafter, each school district would distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) anticipates that implementation of this legislation would lead to a minimal expenditure increase for the Department of Education due to three factors. First, it is plausible that the department would require external expertise in the

first year to ensure that all information included on its website and in the pamphlet is accurate and based on scientifically-sound research. Second, the department would incur printing costs of approximately \$50,000 annually based on existing State contract costs. (According to the 2011 American Community Survey, there are approximately one million families in New Jersey with children under the age of 18, suggesting that the department would be required to print approximately one million pamphlets each year.) Third, it is likely that the department would incur additional costs distributing the pamphlets to school districts and nonpublic schools.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 17, 2013

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2715.

This bill requires the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of 18, the average American child will have viewed 200,000 acts of violence on television. Moreover, exposure to, or involvement in, violence can disrupt normal childhood development and profoundly effect a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, and the Media Awareness Network, extensive viewing of violence on television and other electronic devices lead to greater aggressiveness in children. As adults, children exposed to such violence are more likely to commit serious crimes, use violence to discipline their own children, and treat spouses in an aggressive manner.

This bill, therefore, requires the DOE to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website, information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices. The bill directs the DOE to update this information whenever new information about a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices becomes available.

This bill identifies information to be included, but not limited to: research and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings that show children who play violent video games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices.

This bill requires the DOE to prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the information posted on its website and update the pamphlet as necessary. The bill directs the DOE to distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools upon request. The bill further directs each school district to distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students attending the district in each school year, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

This bill requires the DOE to promulgate regulation to effectuate the act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is likely to cause the DOE to incur additional expenses in designing, printing, and distributing informative materials. On an annual basis the printing costs may lead to additional costs of up to \$50,000. The other costs are indeterminate, but are anticipated to be minimal relative to the DOE's overall operational costs.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4094

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 6, 2013

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman SEAN T. KEAN

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/25/2013)

1 AN ACT concerning a child's exposure to media violence and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Education shall prepare and make
8 available on the department's Internet website, both in print and in
9 an easily printable format, information on how a parent can limit a
10 child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers,
11 and other electronic devices. The department shall update this
12 information whenever new information about a child's exposure to
13 violence on television and other electronic devices becomes
14 available. The information shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (1) research and statistics on how violent behavior increases
16 after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games;

17 (2) scientific findings that show children who play violent video
18 games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with
19 classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to
20 relate to adults in positions of authority;

21 (3) factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of
22 violent behavior, including, but not limited to, exposure or
23 involvement in violence at critical stages of childhood development,
24 poor socioeconomic conditions, and poor parenting skills;

25 (4) symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence, including,
26 but not limited to, sleeplessness, anxiety, depression, feelings of
27 hopelessness, truancy, and difficulty in school;

28 (5) predictors of violent behavior in children, including but not
29 limited to, dishonesty, disobedience, favorable attitude toward
30 violence, hostility toward police, substance abuse, aggressive or
31 antisocial behavior, and involvement in nonviolent criminal
32 offenses; and

33 (6) effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of
34 development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's
35 exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices,
36 including, but not limited to, the use of screening software or other
37 technologies that prevent a child from watching television programs
38 a parent deems inappropriate, co-viewing and commenting on
39 television programs that depict violence, and familiarization with
40 video game advisory labels and rating systems that make it more
41 difficult for children to purchase and play such games.

42 b. The department shall prepare an informational pamphlet that
43 contains the information posted on its website pursuant to
44 subsection a. of this section, and shall update the pamphlet as
45 necessary. The department shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
46 charge, to all school districts in the State, and shall make additional
47 copies available to nonpublic schools upon request.

1 c. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year
2 thereafter, each school district shall distribute the pamphlet to the
3 parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.
4

5 2. The Department of Education, pursuant to the
6 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
7 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
8 this act.
9

10 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
11
12

13 STATEMENT
14

15 The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of
16 18, the average American child will have viewed 200,000 acts of
17 violence on television. Moreover, exposure to, or involvement in,
18 violence can disrupt normal childhood development and profoundly
19 effect a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being.
20 According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent
21 Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, and the Media
22 Awareness Network, extensive viewing of violence on television
23 and other electronic devices leads to greater aggressiveness in
24 children. As adults, children exposed to such violence are more
25 likely to commit serious crimes, use violence to discipline their own
26 children, and treat spouses in an aggressive manner.

27 This bill, therefore, requires the Department of Education (DOE)
28 to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website,
29 information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence
30 on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices.
31 DOE would update this information whenever new information
32 about a child's exposure to violence on television and other
33 electronic devices becomes available.

34 The information would include, but not be limited to: research
35 and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to
36 violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings
37 that show children who play violent video games are more likely to
38 be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly
39 on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of
40 authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk
41 of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to
42 violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective
43 strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will
44 help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on
45 television and other electronic devices.

46 DOE would prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the
47 information posted on its website pursuant to the provisions of the
48 bill and update the pamphlet as necessary. The department would

A4094 QUIJANO, S.KEAN

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1 distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the
2 State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools
3 upon request. In the 2013-2014 school year and in each school year
4 thereafter, each school district would distribute the pamphlet to the
5 parents or guardians of students attending the schools of the district.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4094

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 17, 2013

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4094.

This bill requires the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) to prepare and distribute informational pamphlets on how parents can limit a child's exposure to media violence.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that by the age of 18, the average American child will have viewed 200,000 acts of violence on television. Moreover, exposure to, or involvement in, violence can disrupt normal childhood development and profoundly effect a child's mental, physical, and emotional well-being. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, and the Media Awareness Network, extensive viewing of violence on television and other electronic devices lead to greater aggressiveness in children. As adults, children exposed to such violence are more likely to commit serious crimes, use violence to discipline their own children, and treat spouses in an aggressive manner.

This bill, therefore, requires the DOE to prepare and make available on the department's Internet website, information on how a parent can limit a child's exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices. The bill directs the DOE to update this information whenever new information about a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices becomes available.

This bill identifies information to be included, but not limited to: research and statistics on how violent behavior increases after exposure to violent films, music, television, or video games; scientific findings that show children who play violent video games are more likely to be involved in physical altercations with classmates, perform poorly on academic tasks, and are unable to relate to adults in positions of authority; factors that increase the probability a child will be at risk of violent behavior; symptoms of a child's overexposure to violence; predictors of violent behavior in children; and effective strategies, based on a child's age and stage of development, that will help a parent monitor or restrict a child's exposure to violence on television and other electronic devices.

This bill requires the DOE to prepare an informational pamphlet that contains the information posted on its website and update the pamphlet as necessary. The bill directs the DOE to distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts in the State, and make additional copies available to nonpublic schools upon request. The bill further directs each school district to distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students attending the district in each school year, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

This bill requires the DOE to promulgate regulation to effectuate the act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is likely to cause the DOE to incur additional expenses in designing, printing, and distributing informative materials. On an annual basis the printing costs may lead to additional costs of up to \$50,000. The other costs are indeterminate, but are anticipated to be minimal relative to the DOE's overall operational costs.