

**SENATE, No. 487**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**210th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2002 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Senator ROBERT J. MARTIN**

**District 26 (Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for instruction for middle school and high school students in the dynamics of domestic violence and child abuse.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/17/2002)**

1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence education and supplementing  
2 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. A board of education may include instruction on the problems  
8 of domestic violence and child abuse in an appropriate place in the  
9 curriculum of middle school and high school pupils. The instruction  
10 shall enable pupils to understand the psychology and dynamics of  
11 family violence, dating violence and child abuse, the relationship of  
12 animal cruelty to such violence and abuse, and to learn methods of  
13 non-violent problem-solving. The instruction shall be funded by the  
14 "Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Education Fund" established in  
15 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (now pending before the Legislature  
16 as this bill).

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18 2. There is hereby created the "Domestic Violence and Child Abuse  
19 Education Fund." The fund shall be a nonlapsing, dedicated fund  
20 within the General Fund and administered by the Division of Youth  
21 and Family Services of the Department of Human Services. The fund  
22 shall be the depository of any moneys made available for its purposes.

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24 3. The Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules and  
25 regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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27 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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32 This bill encourages boards of education to provide for the  
33 instruction of middle school and high school students in the issues of  
34 domestic violence and child abuse. The instruction would enable  
35 pupils to understand the psychology and dynamics of these problems,  
36 along with the relationship of animal cruelty to the problems, and to  
37 learn methods of non-violent problem-solving.

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39 The bill establishes the "Domestic Violence and Child Abuse  
40 Education Fund" which school districts could use to pay for the  
41 instruction and which would be administered by the Division of Youth  
42 and Family Services.

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43 This bill embodies Recommendation #55 of the Report of the  
44 Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence, issued in July, 1998.