

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 487

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2002

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 487.

As amended, this bill encourages boards of education to provide for the instruction of middle school and high school students on the issues of domestic violence and child abuse. The instruction would enable pupils to understand the psychology and dynamics of these problems, along with the relationship of alcohol, drug abuse and animal cruelty to the problems, and to learn methods of non-violent problem-solving.

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

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

An amendment was adopted to include in the instruction the relationship of alcohol and drug abuse to the dynamics of family violence and child abuse.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2002 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.