

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

4

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.