

SENATE, No. 1097

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 1996

By Senators BUBBA and CONNORS

1 AN ACT regarding child abuse education in the public schools and
2 supplementing chapter 35 of 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. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The Division of Youth and Family Services has issued a report
9 entitled "Children at Risk 1993 and 1994" that maintains that the
10 effectiveness of early intervention in combating child abuse is
11 diminished because many of the victims of child abuse are unaware
12 that their mistreatment is of a criminal nature or may feel they deserve
13 such treatment as punishment or discipline. In addition, the report
14 finds that many students are unaware of available support services to
15 help child abuse victims;

16 b. As evidenced by the establishment of the New Jersey Task Force
17 on Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to P.L. 1994, c. 119, the State
18 of New Jersey has identified the need to take assertive measures to
19 address the dangers of child abuse; and,

20 c. School authorities by the nature of their relationship with
21 students are sensitive to the health and welfare of students, and the
22 introduction of a curriculum in the public schools to educate children
23 on the nature of child abuse and available support services for victims
24 is appropriate.

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26 2. a. Every board of education may include instruction on the
27 nature of child abuse adapted to the age and understanding of the
28 pupils in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and
29 secondary school pupils. The student instruction shall enable pupils
30 to recognize the difference between criminal child abuse and
31 appropriate discipline. The instruction shall further emphasize the
32 resources available to the victims of child abuse.

33 b. The Department of Education shall develop and establish
34 guidelines and curriculum materials on child abuse for utilization by
35 local school districts.

