

SENATE, No. 2242

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Commissioner of Education to encourage implementation of Natural High Drug Prevention Program in school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning drug prevention education in public schools,
2 and supplementing chapter 40A of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall work in
9 consultation with the national nonprofit organization Natural High
10 to encourage the implementation of the Natural High Drug
11 Prevention Program in each school district. The program shall
12 include, but is not limited to, use of Natural High videos and
13 research-based curricula, training for State educators on the Natural
14 High program, program assessments, support to activate Natural
15 High clubs at the middle and high school levels in the State, and
16 participation of a State educator on the Natural High Leadership
17 Council to provide State-specific input on the program.

18 b. The curriculum for the Natural High Drug Prevention
19 Program implemented pursuant to this act shall include information
20 and discussion, adapted to the age and understanding of the
21 students, on the following:

22 (1) identifying and engaging in positive activities or passions,
23 referred to as natural highs;

24 (2) the benefits of engaging in natural highs and the
25 consequences of drug use;

26 (3) setting goals and reaching one's full potential;

27 (4) peer pressure, refusal strategies, and influencing peers to
28 adopt a drug-free lifestyle;

29 (5) identifying positive role models;

30 (6) basing choices on positive personal values; and

31 (7) discerning true and false messages about drug use and a
32 drug-free lifestyle.

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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
35 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to work with the
41 national nonprofit organization Natural High to encourage the
42 implementation of the Natural High Drug Prevention Program in
43 each school district. The program will include, but is not limited to,
44 use of Natural High videos and research-based curricula, training
45 for State educators on the Natural High program, program
46 assessments, support to activate Natural High clubs at middle
47 schools and high schools in the State, and participation of a State

1 educator on the Natural High Leadership Council to provide State-
2 specific input on the program.

3 Under the bill, the curriculum for the Natural High Drug
4 Prevention Program implemented in the State's school districts will
5 include information on: (1) identifying and engaging in positive
6 activities or passions, referred to as natural highs; (2) the benefits of
7 engaging in natural highs and the consequences of drug use; (3)
8 setting goals and reaching one's full potential; (4) peer pressure,
9 refusal strategies, and influencing peers to adopt a drug-free
10 lifestyle; (5) identifying positive role models; (6) basing choices on
11 positive personal values; and (7) discerning true and false messages
12 about drug use and a drug-free lifestyle. These topics are key
13 components of the research-based curriculum developed by Natural
14 High.