



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Committee Bill No. 5739**

LCO No. 3479

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

(ED )

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SAFETY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "edged weapon" means any knife, razor or cutting instrument, the  
3 edged portion of the blade of which is under four inches in length.

4 (b) Any local or regional board of education and any nonpublic  
5 elementary or secondary school may prohibit the possession by  
6 students of edged weapons while on school grounds or at a school-  
7 sponsored activity. Any such board or nonpublic school that prohibits  
8 the possession of edged weapons may compile a list of the specific  
9 edged weapons that are prohibited and post, publish or otherwise  
10 notify the students of such list.

11 (c) If a local or regional board of education or nonpublic elementary  
12 or secondary school has compiled a list in accordance with subsection  
13 (b) of this section of specific edged weapons that are prohibited on  
14 school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, and has posted,  
15 published or otherwise notified the students of such list, any student  
16 who, knowing that he or she is not licensed or privileged to do so,

17 possesses on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity any  
18 edged weapon on such list shall be fined not more than five hundred  
19 dollars or imprisoned not more than three months, or both.

20 (d) The provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to  
21 the otherwise lawful possession of an edged weapon by a student for  
22 use in a program approved by school officials on school grounds or at  
23 a school-sponsored activity.

24 Sec. 2. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
25 subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

26 (NEW) (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the  
27 Governor declares a civil preparedness emergency pursuant to section  
28 28-9, medication may be administered in schools without the written  
29 authorization of the parent or guardian of a child provided each local  
30 and regional board of education notifies parents and guardians, at  
31 least annually, that the parents or guardians may submit a written  
32 statement to the board withholding consent to such administration of  
33 medication.

34 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-221d of the general statutes is  
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
36 *1, 2003*):

37 (a) On and after July 1, 1994, each local and regional board of  
38 education shall (1) require each applicant for a position in a public  
39 school to state whether such person has ever been convicted of a crime  
40 or whether criminal charges are pending against such person at the  
41 time of such person's application, (2) require, subject to the provisions  
42 of subsection (d) of this section, each person hired by the board after  
43 July 1, 1994, to submit to state and national criminal history records  
44 checks within thirty days from the date of employment and may  
45 require, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any  
46 person hired prior to said date to submit to state and national criminal  
47 history records checks, and (3) require each worker (A) placed within a

48 school under a public assistance employment program, or (B)  
49 employed by a provider of supplemental services pursuant to the No  
50 Child Left Behind Act, P. L. 107-110, who performs a service involving  
51 direct student contact to submit to state and national criminal history  
52 records checks within thirty days from the date such worker begins to  
53 perform such service. The criminal history records checks required by  
54 this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. If  
55 the local or regional board of education receives notice of a conviction  
56 of a crime which has not previously been disclosed by such person to  
57 the board, the board may [(A)] (i) terminate the contract of a certified  
58 employee, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-151, and  
59 [(B)] (ii) dismiss a noncertified employee provided such employee is  
60 notified of the reason for such dismissal, is provided the opportunity  
61 to file with the board, in writing, any proper answer to such criminal  
62 conviction and a copy of the notice of such criminal conviction, the  
63 answer and the dismissal order are made a part of the records of the  
64 board. In addition, if the local or regional board of education receives  
65 notice of a conviction of a crime by a person holding a certificate,  
66 authorization or permit issued by the State Board of Education or  
67 employed by a provider of supplemental services, the local or regional  
68 board of education shall send such notice to the State Board of  
69 Education. The supervisory agent of a private school may require any  
70 applicant for a position in such school or any employee of such school  
71 to submit to state and national criminal history records checks in  
72 accordance with the procedures described in this subsection.

73 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) Local and regional boards of  
74 education may provide opportunities for students and staff to  
75 participate in programs designed to educate and assist schools in the  
76 creation of safe and respectful environments for students and adults  
77 working with students. Such programs shall include, but not be  
78 limited to, seminars, workshops and student assemblies designed to  
79 encourage participants to build healthy relationships and to curb  
80 youth violence.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To prohibit students possessing edged weapons on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, to allow schools to administer medication in the event of a civil preparedness emergency, to require that individuals who interact with students and are employees or providers of supplemental services pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act be fingerprinted and submit to state and national criminal history records checks and to require school districts that receive notice that an employee or provider of supplemental services has been convicted of a crime to notify the State Board of Education of the conviction, and to authorize school districts to provide opportunities for students and staff to participate in programs designed to reduce youth violence and create a safe learning environment.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. ORANGE, 48th Dist.

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