

SECONDARY HUMANE EDUCATION BILL

An act that expands the requirements for teaching humane education of animals to secondary school students; requires verification of compliance.

A.798 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S.4952 Senator Harckham
Co-Sponsors: Colton, Stern, Dinowitz, Simone, Kelles, Davila, Epstein	Co-Sponsors: Addabbo Jr
Multi-Sponsors: Glick	
REFERRED TO: EDUCATION, A/M Benedetto, Chair	REFERRED TO: EDUCATION, Senator Mayer, Chair

When children are taught kindness to animals in their formative years, it is a skill and mindset that they will carry with them throughout their lives.



Humane Education is critical for today's society.

An article from the NYSHA, it states that, "Children's natural fascination with and love of animals makes them respond well to messages of kindness and respect for them. Studies show that kindness and respect for animals carries over into kindness and respect for humans. Morality and sympathy toward people are taught by teaching morality and sympathy toward animals."

Children trained to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more just, kind, and considerate in their relations with each other. As they come into adulthood it creates a broader set of sympathies, more humane, more law abiding, in every respect more valuable citizens.



BACKGROUND:

- Educating students on how to respect animals will help to raise empathetic and compassionate citizens.
- There is a direct tie between violence towards animals and violence towards humans.
- Teaching students to treat ALL living beings with respect is a preventative measure towards possible future violence.
- Teaching children to care for and protect animals will also help to protect local ecological systems.
- Teaching students the principles of kindness to and respect for animals.
- Providing education on the laws and rules treatment and protection of animals, and the importance they play in the economy of nature.
- Such classes would also educate students on local animal cruelty laws pertaining to abandonment, tethering, and other issues. This will help them to recognize animal abuse when they see it and to become better pet owners and more compassionate citizens.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Curriculum will be wholly or partly publicly funded, as part of a typical school curriculum.
- Commissioners must decide how humane education will fit into pre-existing school curriculum such as literature, reading, language, nature study or ethnology.
- Weekly instruction may be divided into two or more periods. If schools do not provide humane education courses, they will not receive the funding allocated for such courses.
- Compliance records. The commissioner shall maintain records verifying school compliance with the provisions of this section and shall make 14 such information available to the public, including on its website.