AN ACT to direct the commissioner of education to appoint a media literacy advisory group to study the teaching of media literacy

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. For purposes of this act, "media literacy" shall be considered a broad term that encompasses consumption and production of media and digital products and is defined as the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, act and create with all forms of communication, and encompasses the foundational skills of digital citizenship and internet safety including the norms of appropriate, responsible, healthy behavior, and cyberbullying prevention.

§ 2. The commissioner of education, in cooperation with experts in media literacy, the board of regents of the university of the state of New York, and stakeholders including educators and parents, shall appoint a media literacy advisory group ("group") to conduct a survey on the current status of library media instruction. Such group shall include staff from school library systems, staff from school libraries and staff from higher education institutions that offer library and information studies programs.

§ 3. The group shall survey each school district in the state to determine the media literacy practices of and the current media literacy resources available to each district. The survey shall include a checklist of items for school districts to consider when updating policies and procedures. The survey shall also inquire of teacher-librarians, principals, and technology directors to understand how they are currently integrating digital citizenship and media literacy education in their curriculum. The group shall create a web-based location with links to

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.
recommended successful practices and resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy, and internet safety.

§ 4. The group shall make a report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate, best practices for instruction that provides guidance about thoughtful, safe, and strategic uses of online and other media resources and education on how to apply critical thinking skills when consuming and producing media in any form. These recommendations and best practices may include, but are not limited to:

(a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional technology plan;
(b) revisions to policies and procedures on media literacy, including digital citizenship and internet safety;
(c) school district processes necessary to develop customized school district policies and procedures on electronic resources and internet safety that can be used within a school district technology plan;
(d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in media literacy;
(e) best practices, resources, and models for instruction of digital citizenship, including media literacy, that are compliant with the federal universal service e-rate program administered by the schools and libraries division of the universal service administrative company and federal mandates established in the federal children's internet protection act; and
(f) strategies that will support school districts in local implementation of the best practices and recommendations developed by the group, including strategies for delivering professional development to educators and administrators.

§ 5. The report required by section four of this act shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this act.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.