

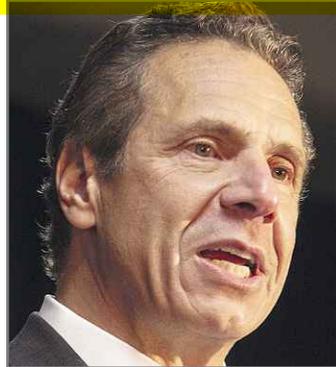
CUOMO: LET EDUCATORS FLAG GUN RISK

Bill would give new authority to report suspected students

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY
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ALBANY — Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo proposed a “red-flag bill” on Tuesday that would empower teachers and other school officials to ask a judge to block access to guns by students suspected of being a danger to themselves or others.

Cuomo said the bill would be the first in the nation to provide an opportunity for a teacher to act on suspicions that students could be a danger to themselves or others. Under current law, Cuomo said, a school official has no legal standing to petition a judge to remove or secure



Governor offers a gun safety bill.

guns in the home of a student. “The evidence suggests that, in many cases, the teacher already had suspicions about a student before an action happened,” Cuomo said. “Right now, teachers are basically powerless. . . . [The bill] gives them a vehicle to do something about it.”

Cuomo said the State Senate’s Republican majority re-

jected the idea during budget negotiations, from January through March. However, the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Democratic-led Assembly have already passed a red-flag bill — limited to family members, household members, police officers and prosecutors. The bill, co-sponsored by state Sen. Brian Kavanaugh (D-Manhattan), would prevent a school-age child from purchasing or possessing a firearm under the “extreme risk protection orders” from judges.

A spokesman for the Republican majority didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Cuomo’s bill would add school officials to that group. Currently, he said, a judge may remove firearms from a person in connection with a criminal or family court proceeding.

At least six states — Rhode Island, Florida, Vermont, Dela-

ware, Maryland and Vermont — have some form of “red-flag law,” according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, with dozens more states considering similar proposals.

Unlike proposals in the Republican-led Congress to arm teachers trained in firearms, Cuomo’s proposal has support from a major teachers union.

“We have to make sure our schools are not fortresses,” said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. “Anyone who understands schools understands the insanity of arming teachers. It may create an illusion of safety, but in reality it will make schools more dangerous.”

Cuomo acknowledged that with just 10 scheduled days left in the legislative session, it’s unlikely his bill could pass. But he said he hopes to at least inform voters about opponents of the measure, come legislative elec-

tions in the fall. Cuomo also is running for re-election.

Ron Avi Astor, a professor at the University of Southern California who has studied school shootings, said the additional route to report concerns is “probably a good thing and may save lives . . . but right now we’re kind of like, ‘Let’s figure out who the next shooter is.’”

“If you want to prevent this on a mass scale, you really want to start much, much earlier in the process,” he said. He said researchers nationwide are urging politicians to “soften schools, not harden them,” by creating closer and more productive relationships with students, so that fear, anxiety and violence can be talked about.

“Students have lot of intel,” he said, noting a California study found 20 to 30 percent of students had seen weapons on campus. “They know about the rumblings long before the earthquakes.”

Ocean search resumes

BY VERA CHINESE
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Search boats are expected back in the water on Wednesday to look for two of the four people aboard a small plane that crashed Saturday off the Amagansett coast, authorities said.

Two vessels returned to port in Montauk about 6 p.m. Tuesday after combing the choppy seas in the area where the twin-engine Piper PA-31 Navajo went down, said East Hampton Town Police Chief Michael Sarlo.

Earlier, Sarlo said choppy seas and the threat of afternoon thunderstorms had limited the efforts to just the two patrol boats. The conditions also prevented dive teams from joining Day Three of the search for the victims and wreckage, the chief said.

Emergency crews found two bodies Saturday just hours after the plane went down about two miles off Indian Wells Beach. Sarlo said Monday the search was now a recovery effort.

Police have identified the four people aboard the plane as builder Bernard Krupinski and his wife, Bonnie Krupinski, both 70, and their grandson William Maerov, 22, all of East Hampton; and the pilot, Jon Dollard, 47, of Hampton Bays.

A memorial service for the

Krupinkis and Maerov will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Yardley and Pino Funeral Home in East Hampton. A funeral will be held for the three at 10 a.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton, followed by a burial in Cedar Lawn Cemetery in East Hampton.

It was not clear Tuesday whether services had been set for Dollard.

Strong winds and waves cresting from 4 to 8 feet over the weekend and Monday, hampering the search efforts. Waves on Tuesday were measured between 3 and 4 feet, with winds from 10 to 15 mph with occasional gusts of 25 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Sarlo said the conditions made it too risky for divers to look for the victims and the plane’s wreckage. “We have dive teams from the State Police, Southampton Town and our own dive team on standby,” he said.

Police continued mapping the search field and placing markers, Sarlo said. Nonstop shoreline search patrols continued from Southampton Town to Amagansett. “We ask if anybody notices or spots any debris that they please call the police department immediately and leave it for us to come pick up,” he said. *With William Murphy*



A tribute at prom

Ja' Juan Polley, 20, and his sister, Jazaira, 8, get ready to attend Hempstead High School’s prom on Tuesday. They were invited in honor of their brother, Ka’ Juan Polley, 15, who was killed in 2015 when hit by an unlicensed driver while riding his bike.