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I N S E N A T E

June 15, 2012

Introduced by Sen. FLANAGAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to allowing school districts to schedule August conference days

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 8 of section 3604 of the education law, as
2 amended by section 46 of part H of chapter 83 of the laws of 2002, is
3 amended to read as follows:
4 8. No school shall be in session on a Saturday or a legal holiday,
5 except general election day, Washington's birthday and Lincoln's birth-
6 day, and except that driver education classes may be conducted on a
7 Saturday. A deficiency not exceeding [three] FOUR days during any school
8 year caused by teachers' attendance upon conferences held by superinten-
9 dents of schools of city school districts or other school districts
10 employing superintendents of schools shall be excused by the commission-
11 er, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW, RULE OR REGULATION TO THE
12 CONTRARY, A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ELECT TO SCHEDULE SUCH CONFERENCE DAYS
13 IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST, SUBJECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
14 REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW, AND
15 SUCH DAYS SHALL BE COUNTED TOWARDS THE REQUIRED ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS
16 OF SESSION, provided however, [notwithstanding any other provision of
17 law, that during the nineteen hundred ninety-two--ninety-three through
18 the two thousand two--two thousand three school years and thereafter,
19 the] THAT SUCH SCHEDULING SHALL NOT ALTER THE OBLIGATION OF THE SCHOOL
20 DISTRICT TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO STUDENTS IN NON-PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
21 AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS. THE commissioner shall excuse
22 a deficiency not exceeding four days during such school year caused by
23 teachers' attendance upon conferences held by such superintendents,
24 provided that at least two such conference days during such school year
25 shall be dedicated to staff attendance upon conferences providing staff
26 development relating to implementation of the new high learning stand-
27 ards and assessments, as adopted by the board of regents. Notwithstand-
28 ing any other provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary,

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 school districts may elect to use one or more of such allowable confer-
2 ence days in units of not less than one hour each to provide staff
3 development activities relating to implementation of the new high learn-
4 ing standards and assessments. A district making such election may
5 provide such staff development during the regularly scheduled daily
6 session and apply such units to satisfy a deficiency in the length of
7 one or more daily sessions of instruction for pupils as specified in
8 regulations of the commissioner. The commissioner shall assure that such
9 conference days include appropriate school violence prevention and
10 intervention training, and may require that up to one such conference
11 day be dedicated for such purpose.

12 S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
13 the date on which it shall have become a law.