

5509

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 16, 2013

Introduced by Sen. YOUNG -- (at request of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to direct the commissioner of education to establish an online learning advisory committee to make recommendations on establishing a statewide online and blended learning program

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature recognizes that there
2 is a demonstrated need to reevaluate the delivery of education in New
3 York state in light of educational advancements and a more technolog-
4 ically driven economy. In light of academic discrepancies for those in
5 the most rural and underrepresented areas within the state as well as
6 the unstable economic times, we believe that there is a need to advance
7 emerging technologies and the potential for implementation of a state-
8 wide online and blended learning program. This will provide an opportu-
9 nity to highlight the state's most successful programs and make them
10 universally accessible. A statewide online and blended learning program
11 will not only have the potential to provide equal educational opportu-
12 nities to the most remote areas of the state, but help all students as
13 they transition into a competitive marketplace.

14 S 2. The commissioner of education, in consultation with the New York
15 state broadband program office of the empire state development corpo-
16 ration, the New York state energy research and development authority and
17 the public service commission, shall establish an online learning advi-
18 sory committee which shall develop recommendations for establishment of
19 a statewide online and blended learning program. Such advisory committee
20 shall be composed of 12 members appointed by the commissioner of educa-
21 tion. Provided that three members shall be appointed upon the recommen-
22 dation of the governor, three members shall be appointed upon the recom-
23 mendation of the temporary president of the senate, and three members

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

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1 shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the speaker of the assem-
2 bly. The members of the committee shall have demonstrated experience
3 with or expertise in one of the following areas: private or public
4 online providers, accreditation of programming, boards of cooperative
5 educational services, school administration, educational delivery in a
6 rural setting, existing online and blended learning program development
7 or institutions of higher education. The recommendations of the advisory
8 committee shall include, but not be limited to:

9 (a) definitions of online and blended learning;

10 (b) connecting modules throughout the state in order to create a
11 statewide online and blended learning system including, but not limited
12 to, remote and rural school districts;

13 (c) model school district policies, as well as model agreements to be
14 used by school districts in implementation of an online and blended
15 learning program including, but not limited to, agreements that address
16 billing, fees, responsibilities of online course providers and school
17 districts;

18 (d) best practices from throughout the state that can be modeled and
19 replicated;

20 (e) implementation guidelines and policies for schools without online
21 and blended learning programs;

22 (f) state and federal funding opportunities for online and blended
23 learning programs, as well as a review of state aid to online and blend-
24 ed learning programs;

25 (g) regulatory review and development of new regulations pertaining to
26 online and blended learning programs;

27 (h) content and course evaluation;

28 (i) identifiable academic programming suited for online and blended
29 learning that have been eliminated from course offerings within the past
30 five years including, but not limited to, foreign language courses,
31 technology classes, art and music, and career and college ready
32 programs;

33 (j) partnerships with institutions of higher education for workforce
34 opportunities using online and blended learning;

35 (k) teaching and professional development requirements including
36 recommendations regarding licensure, and compliance with current state
37 laws;

38 (l) technology support, including but not limited to, technological
39 delivery and broadband access to remote and underrepresented geographic
40 areas;

41 (m) quality assessment and licensing of online providers;

42 (n) operational and administrative support guidelines;

43 (o) addressing barriers to the implementation of online and blended
44 learning programs; and

45 (p) local school district flexibility including recommendations for
46 compliance with seat-time and graduation requirements.

47 S 3. The advisory committee shall convene on October 1, 2013 to devel-
48 op its recommendations. On or before January 1, 2014, the committee
49 shall submit a preliminary report of its recommendations for consider-
50 ation in the executive budget for the 2014-2015 state fiscal year, and,
51 on or before October 1, 2014, shall submit a final report of its recom-
52 mendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the
53 speaker of the assembly and the chairmen of the legislative commission
54 on the development of rural resources.

55 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.