

4161--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 4, 2015

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Introduced by Sens. MURPHY, FUNKE, ADDABBO, CROCI, DILAN, FARLEY, GALLIVAN, GRIFFO, LATIMER, MARCHIONE, MARTINS, ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "common core parental refusal act"

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

1     Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "common  
2     core parental refusal act".  
3     S 2. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
4     subdivision 51-b to read as follows:  
5     51-B. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ENSURE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOTIFY  
6     PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES THREE THROUGH EIGHT, EITHER BY EMAIL  
7     AND/OR A MAILED LETTER, THAT SUCH STUDENTS MAY REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN  
8     ALL STATE TESTING PROVIDED BY PEARSON OR ANY OTHER STATE TESTING BASED  
9     ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS. SUCH NOTIFICATION SHALL BE GIVEN NO SOONER  
10    THAN FOURTEEN DAYS AND NO LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED  
11    ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH TESTING. SUCH NOTIFICATION SHALL READ AS  
12    FOLLOWS:  
13    "IT IS THE RIGHT OF EVERY PARENT TO DIRECT THE UPBRINGING AND EDUCA-  
14    TION OF THEIR CHILDREN. PARENTS MAY REFUSE TO PERMIT THEIR CHILDREN TO  
15    TAKE STATE TESTING PROVIDED BY PEARSON OR ANY OTHER STATE TESTING BASED  
16    ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS. PARENTS WHO REFUSE TO PERMIT THEIR CHILDREN TO  
17    TAKE SUCH TESTS MAY FILL OUT AND RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM. NO PUNITIVE  
18    MEASURES MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST STUDENTS WHO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH  
19    TESTING, NOR SHALL STUDENTS WHO DO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH TESTING RECEIVE  
20    ANY INCENTIVE OR REWARD FOR DOING SO."

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

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1 THE TEXT OF SUCH NOTIFICATION SHALL BE POSTED ON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2 WEBSITES.

3 THE RESPONSE FORM, WHICH SHALL BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE NOTIFICATION,  
4 SHALL READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 "AS THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF \_\_\_\_\_ (CHILD'S FULL NAME), I  
6 RESPECTFULLY AND FORMALLY STATE MY REFUSAL TO PERMIT MY CHILD TO TAKE  
7 PART IN TESTING PROVIDED BY PEARSON OR ANY OTHER STATE TESTING BASED ON  
8 COMMON CORE STANDARDS. MY CHILD SHALL BE SCORED AS A 'REFUSAL', RATHER  
9 THAN AS 'ABSENT', IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STUDENT INFORMATION REPOSITORY  
10 SYSTEM, AND THEREFORE MY CHILD WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A FREE AND  
11 APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HIS/HER REGULAR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT  
12 DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ALL MAKEUP TEST PERIODS AS THIS LETTER  
13 PROVIDES WRITTEN VERIFICATION OF A 'REFUSAL' FOR ALL TESTS."

14 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, RULE OR REGULATION TO THE CONTRARY, IT  
15 SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REQUIRE A STUDENT TO  
16 PARTICIPATE IN TESTING PROVIDED BY PEARSON OR ANY OTHER STATE TESTING  
17 BASED ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS. IT SHALL FURTHER BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY  
18 SCHOOL DISTRICT TO TAKE PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST STUDENTS WHO REFUSE TO  
19 PARTICIPATE IN SUCH TESTING, OR PROVIDE ANY FORM OF INCENTIVE OR REWARD  
20 FOR STUDENTS WHO DO SO PARTICIPATE. SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL PROVIDE  
21 STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS REFUSE TO PERMIT THEIR TESTING PARTICIPATION WITH  
22 AN ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY DURING SCHEDULED STATE TESTING TIMES.  
23 IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO REQUIRE SUCH STUDENTS TO BE  
24 PLACED IN A TESTING ROOM OR ENVIRONMENT DURING SCHEDULED STATE TESTING  
25 TIMES OR MAKEUP TIMES. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION  
26 TWO OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED SIX OF THIS ARTICLE, STATE AID FOR SCHOOLS  
27 SHALL NOT BE CONTINGENT ON OR IN ANY WAY AFFECTED BY THE STUDENT PARTIC-  
28 IPATION RATE FOR TESTING PROVIDED BY PEARSON OR ANY OTHER STATE TESTING  
29 BASED ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, RULE OR  
30 REGULATION TO THE CONTRARY, SCORE RESULTS ON PEARSON OR ANY OTHER STATE  
31 TESTING BASED ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE GROUNDS OR  
32 BE CONSIDERED AS A FACTOR FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A SCHOOL IS A CHRON-  
33 ICALLY UNDERPERFORMING OR FAILING SCHOOL. NOR SHALL A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
34 GIVE ANY CONSIDERATION TO CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION RATES IN SUCH TESTING  
35 WHEN EVALUATING TEACHER PERFORMANCE OR MAKING PERSONNEL DECISIONS. IT  
36 SHALL LIKEWISE BE UNLAWFUL FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RE-ALLOCATE FUNDING  
37 AMONG OR BETWEEN SCHOOLS WITHIN SUCH DISTRICT BASED ON STUDENT PARTIC-  
38 IPATION RATES FOR SUCH TESTING.

39 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.