

STATE OF NEW YORK

4012

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. RAMOS, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, JEAN-PIERRE, SIMON, SEAWRIGHT, HYNDMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to school district diversity officers

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 2101 of the education law, as
2 amended by chapter 107 of the laws of 1976, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 1. Each common school district shall have one or three trustees as the
5 district determines, a collector except in first class towns and except
6 as may be otherwise provided by law, a diversity officer, and if the
7 district so decides a treasurer.

8 § 2. Section 2102 of the education law, as amended by chapter 737 of
9 the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

10 § 2102. Qualifications of officers. Every school district officer
11 must be able to read and write and must be a qualified voter of the
12 district; and each member of a board of education of a union free school
13 district, common school district or a central school district shall have
14 been a resident of the school district, or in the case of a person qual-
15 ified by subdivision three of section twenty hundred twelve of this
16 chapter to vote in a district election, a resident of the district or
17 reservation, for at least one year prior to the election. Notwithstand-
18 ing the provisions of any other general or special law to the contrary,
19 a school district treasurer, collector, diversity officer or clerk need
20 not be a resident of the school district to hold such office in such
21 district.

22 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 2103 of the education law is amended to
23 read as follows:

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

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1 1. No district superintendent or supervisor is eligible to the office
2 of trustee or member of a board of education, and no trustee or member
3 of a board of education can hold the office of district clerk, collec-
4 tor, diversity officer, treasurer or librarian, except as otherwise
5 provided by section twenty-one hundred thirty.

6 § 4. Section 2103 of the education law is amended by adding a new
7 subdivision 5 to read as follows:

8 5. An administrative employee of the school district shall be
9 appointed as the school district diversity officer.

10 § 5. The part heading of part 2 of article 43 of the education law is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 DISTRICT CLERK; TREASURER; **DIVERSITY OFFICER**; COLLECTOR

13 § 6. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2131 to
14 read as follows:

15 § 2131. Duties of diversity officer. It shall be the duty of the
16 diversity officer of each school district to develop methods to diversi-
17 fy the personnel of the school district, with an emphasis on diversify-
18 ing teaching staff. The diversity officer shall annually review racial
19 and ethnic disparities within the school district and shall encourage
20 and assist in the recruitment and retention of a more racially and
21 ethnically diverse staff. The diversity officer shall also review
22 school district policies and practices and recommend changes to such
23 policies and practices to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in hiring
24 school district employees, particularly teachers. The diversity officer
25 shall publish an annual report on the school district's plans, processes
26 and progress in hiring and retaining educators of color. Such report
27 shall be presented to the local board of education and shall be avail-
28 able to the public

29 § 7. Section 1709 of the education law is amended by adding a new
30 subdivision 44 to read as follows:

31 44. To prepare a report in response to the annual report presented to
32 the board of education by the diversity officer pursuant to section
33 twenty-one hundred thirty-one of this title relating to the school
34 district's plans, processes and progress in hiring and retaining educa-
35 tors of color and to submit such report to the department.

36 § 8. Section 1804 of the education law is amended by adding a new
37 subdivision 13 to read as follows:

38 13. The board shall prepare a report in response to the annual report
39 presented to the board of education by the diversity officer pursuant to
40 section twenty-one hundred thirty-one of this title relating to the
41 school district's plans, processes and progress in hiring and retaining
42 educators of color and to submit such report to the department.

43 § 9. Section 2503 of the education law is amended by adding a new
44 subdivision 22 to read as follows:

45 22. Shall prepare a report in response to the annual report presented
46 to the board of education by the diversity officer pursuant to section
47 twenty-one hundred thirty-one of this title relating to the school
48 district's plans, processes and progress in hiring and retaining educa-
49 tors of color and to submit such report to the department.

50 § 10. Section 2554 of the education law is amended by adding a new
51 subdivision 29 to read as follows:

52 29. To prepare a report in response to the annual report presented to
53 the board of education by the diversity officer pursuant to section
54 twenty-one hundred thirty-one of this title relating to the school
55 district's plans, processes and progress in hiring and retaining educa-
56 tors of color and to submit such report to the department.

1 § 11. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new
2 subdivision 60 to read as follows:

3 60. The commissioner shall prepare an annual report based on the
4 reports submitted to the department by local boards of education on
5 school districts' plans, processes and progress in hiring and retaining
6 educators of color and shall submit such report to the legislature annu-
7 ally.

8 § 12. This act shall take effect immediately.