STATE OF NEW YORK

7399

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to moments of silence in schools

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

Section 1. Section 3029-a of the education law, as added by chapter 1204 of the laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3029-a. Silent meditation in public schools. 1. In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge [~~may, or if so authorized or directed by the board of education by which he is employed,~~] shall, at the opening of school upon every school day, [~~conduct a brief~~] **permit students to observe a one minute** period of silent meditation with the participation of all the [~~pupils~~] **students** therein assembled. **Such period of silent meditation shall be utilized at the discretion of each individual student.**

2. The silent meditation authorized by [~~subsection~~] **subdivision** one of this [~~act~~] **section** is not intended to be, and shall not be conducted as, a religious service or exercise, but may be considered as an opportunity for silent meditation on a religious theme by those who are so disposed, or a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day. As used in subdivision one of this section**,** the term "participation" shall be construed to permit seated participation and not to require any [~~pupil~~] **student** to stand.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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