STATE OF NEW YORK

8971

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

August 13, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a committee to conduct a survey of instruction on Italian American heritage and issue a report on such survey; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. This act shall be known as the "New York Italian American Heritage Education Equity Act".

§ 2. (a) The commissioner of education is authorized and directed to conduct a survey regarding instruction on Italian American heritage within the state. Such survey shall focus on identifying the extent to which school districts provide instruction on Italian American heritage. Such survey shall include as appropriate, questions on how the district is providing such instruction, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) how the department's learning standards inform the school district's teaching of Italian American heritage history;

(2) which grade levels are being taught about Italian American heritage history;

(3) how much instructional time is devoted to Italian American heritage history;

(4) what are the school district's social studies curricula that are used in the district, and who publishes curricula;

(5) what challenges and/or barriers do districts face in incorporating Italian American heritage history into the curriculum;

(6) do educators receive any training or professional development regarding Italian American heritage history; and

(7) are there assessments or evaluations to measure student understanding of Italian American heritage history.

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

LBD13581-01-5

(b) Findings shall include detailed results of the survey, and if needed, recommendations to implement or strengthen such instruction. A report of the findings of such survey shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly the first of January following the effective date of this act or one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this act, whichever is later.

§ 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 805 to read as follows:

§ 805. Italian American heritage history advisory committee; appointment; powers and duties. 1. The commissioner shall establish an Italian American heritage advisory committee.

2. (a) The committee shall be comprised of four members, to be appointed as follows:

i. one member appointed by the governor;

ii. one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

iii. one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and

iv. one member appointed by the commissioner.

(b) All members appointed to the committee shall be experts in Italian American heritage and/or have a background in educational instruction and/or educational administration.

(c) All members of the committee shall be appointed within ninety days of the effective date of this section.

3. Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner provided for original appointments.

4. The committee shall meet no less than four times per year.

5. The committee shall provide recommendations on the following:

(a) high-quality K-12 curricular and instructional resources on Italian American heritage history; and

(b) strategies for strengthening and deepening public K-12 education programs in the areas of Italian American heritage history, including analysis of the survey referenced in section two of the chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-five that added this section.

6. The committee shall submit their recommendations to the commissioner no later than two years after the effective date of this section and be disbanded thereafter.

7. Committee members shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

8. To effectuate the purposes of this section, the committee may request from any department, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the state, and the same are authorized to provide, such cooperation and assistance, services and data as will enable the committee to properly carry out its functions pursuant to this section.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed 3 years after such date.