STATE OF NEW YORK

518--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. PERSAUD, BROUK, CLEARE, FERNANDEZ, SEPULVEDA, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading -- recommitted to the Committee on Finance 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 executive law, the general municipal law and the town law, in relation to requiring the inclusion of cultural competency training in the basic training and pre-employment course curriculums for state police officers and municipal police officers and sheriffs; to amend the general municipal law, in relation to requiring the inclusion of cultural competency training in the basic training and pre-employment course curricula for members of fire departments and companies; to amend the correction law, in relation to requiring the inclusion of cultural competency training in the basic training and pre-employment course curricula for correction officers; and to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the inclusion of cultural competency training in the basic training and pre-employment course curricula for career first responders, emergency medical technicians and advanced emergency medical technicians

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 214-j to read as follows:

§ 214-j. Training. 1. The superintendent shall establish policies and procedures requiring that state police basic training and pre-employment

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

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course curricula include training in the areas of cultural competency, including training pertaining to appropriate sensitivity to issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age and disabilities. Such training shall comprise not less than five percent of the basic training and pre-employment course training curricula. Cultural competency training shall be provided by an accredited educator and/or accreditation body.

2. The accreditation body shall provide information pertaining to such policies and procedures to municipal law enforcement agencies and departments, fire departments, the department of corrections and community supervision and the department of health for implementation of such curricula by such agencies and departments.

3. The superintendent of the state police shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section.

4. For the purposes of this section, the term "cultural competency" means knowledge and skills that enable a person to appreciate, understand and interact with members of diverse populations within the local community.

§ 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 208-i to read as follows:

§ 208-i. Mandatory police officer cultural competency training. The chief officer of every police department and sheriff's office in the state shall establish and implement basic training and pre-employment course curricula for all members of such office or department and for all current and new officer employees in accordance with the cultural competency policies and procedures established pursuant to section two hundred fourteen-j of the executive law.

§ 3. Section 204-d of the general municipal law, as amended by section 44 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

§ 204-d. Duties of the fire chief. 1. The fire chief of any fire department or company shall, in addition to any other duties assigned to [~~him~~] such fire chief by law or contract, to the extent reasonably possible determine or cause to be determined the cause of each fire or explosion which the fire department or company has been called to suppress. [~~He~~] Such fire chief shall file with the office of fire prevention and control a report containing such determination and any additional information required by such office regarding the fire or explosion. The report shall be in the form designated by such office. [~~He~~] Such fire chief shall contact or cause to be contacted the appropriate investigatory authority if [~~he~~] such fire chief has reason to believe the fire or explosion is of incendiary or suspicious origin. For all fires that are suspected to have been ignited by a cigarette, within fourteen days after completing the investigation into such fire, the fire chief shall forward to the office of fire prevention and control information detailing, to the extent possible: (a) the specific brand and style of the cigarette suspected of having ignited such fire; (b) whether the cigarette package was marked as required by subdivision six of section one hundred fifty-six-c of the executive law; and (c) the location and manner in which such cigarette was purchased.

2. The fire chief of any fire department or company in the state shall establish and implement basic training and pre-employment course curricula for all members of such fire department or company and for all current and new employees in accordance with the cultural competency policies and procedures established pursuant to section two hundred fourteen-j of the executive law.

§ 4. The town law is amended by adding a new section 155-a to read as follows:

§ 155-a. Mandatory police officer cultural competency training. The chief officer of every police department in the state shall establish and implement basic training and pre-employment course curricula for all members of such office and for all current and new officer employees in accordance with the cultural competency policies and procedures established pursuant to section two hundred fourteen-j of the executive law.

§ 5. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 22-b to read as follows:

§ 22-b. Mandatory correction officer cultural competency training. The commissioner shall establish and implement basic training and pre-employment course curricula for all members of the department and for all current and new officer employees in accordance with the cultural competency policies and procedures established pursuant to section two hundred fourteen-j of the executive law.

§ 6. Section 3002 of the public health law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-c to read as follows:

2-c. The commissioner, in consultation with the state emergency medical services council, shall establish and implement basic training and pre-employment course curricula for all current career first responders, emergency medical technicians and advanced emergency medical technicians and for all new first responders, emergency medical technicians and advanced emergency medical technicians in accordance with the cultural competency policies and procedures established pursuant to section two hundred fourteen-j of the executive law.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.