STATE OF NEW YORK

5405--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 21, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, MAYER, ADDABBO, CLEARE, MARTINEZ, PARKER, WEBER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring hate crime awareness curriculum or instruction for school districts

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to read as follows:

§ 804-e. Hate crime awareness curriculum or instruction. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with the division of human rights and any other appropriate agency, shall establish hate crime awareness curriculum or instruction for school districts, including, but not limited to, instruction on what discrimination and religious intolerance, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, might look like as well as the positive actions students can take to promote acceptance, inclusion, and the diversity of their communities. The content of such curriculum or instruction may be varied to meet the needs of particular school districts, or portions thereof, and need not be uniform throughout the state. The content of such curriculum or instruction shall be age appropriate and shall be developed according to the needs and abilities of pupils at successive grade levels in order to provide skills, information, and guidance to aid in hate crime awareness.

2. Schools may include the curriculum or instruction required by this section as a component of its social studies curriculum or in any other manner the school deems appropriate.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

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

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