S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3467--B

Cal. No. 265

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 27, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL, GLICK, MILLMAN, CARROZZA, PAULIN, J. RIVERA, HOOPER, KELLNER, COLTON, DINOWITZ -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BENJAMIN, DESTITO, GALEF, GUNTHER, LATIMER, MAYERSOHN, McENENY, PERRY, PHEFFER, SWEENEY, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the dissection of animals

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 809 of the education law, as amended by chapter 542 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

4. Dissection of animals. Any student expressing a moral or religious objection to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part, shall be provided the opportunity to undertake and complete an alternative project that shall be approved by such student's teacher; provided, however, that such objection is substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students who perform alternative projects who do not perform or witness the dissection of animals shall not be penalized. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OR TRUSTEES OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL DEVELOP A POLICY TO GIVE REASONABLE NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A COURSE THAT INCLUDES THE DISSECTION OF AN ANIMAL AND STUDENTS' PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION. SUCH NOTICE SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE SCHOOL AND DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A COURSE THAT INCLUDES DISSECTION AT LEAST ONCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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