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

1290

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to prohibiting the use of a minimum score on a standardized test or combination of standardized tests as a cut-off for admission to or rejection by the state university of New York and the city university of New York

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

Section 1. Paragraph h of subdivision 2 of section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 10 to read as follows:

(10) IN REGULATING THE ADMISSION OF STUDENTS, A MINIMUM SCORE ON ONE OR MORE STANDARDIZED APTITUDE OR ACHIEVEMENT TESTS, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE COLLEGE BOARD'S SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TESTS OR ITS ACHIEVEMENT OR ACT TESTS, OR A MINIMUM INDEX SCORE DERIVED BY UTILIZING ANY COMBINATION OF SCORES FROM MORE THAN ONE OF ANY SUCH STANDARDIZED TESTS, SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED AS A MINIMUM STANDARD FOR STUDENT ADMISSION TO ANY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY. NO PROVISION OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PRECLUDE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH SCORES TOGETHER WITH ACADEMIC COURSE GRADES, CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, IN DETERMINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR STUDENT ADMISSION, NOR TO PRECLUDE THE USE OF AN INDEX BASED UPON SUCH OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF A STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN MAKING SUCH ASSESSMENT OR CONSTRUCTING SUCH INDEX, NO MINIMUM SCORE ON ANY SUCH STANDARDIZED TEST OR COMBINATION OF STANDARDIZED TESTS SHALL BE REQUIRED AS A STANDARD FOR ADMISSION; AND FURTHER PROVIDED THAT THE COMPONENTS OF ANY SUCH INDEX SHALL NOT BE WEIGHTED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO REQUIRE, IN EFFECT, THAT A MINIMUM SCORE BE ATTAINED ON ANY SUCH STANDARDIZED TEST OR COMBINATION OF STANDARDIZED TESTS TO REACH AN INDEX SCORE WHICH CONSTITUTES THE CUT-OFF POINT FOR STUDENT ADMISSION OR REJECTION.

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

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S 2. Subdivision 7 of section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph (a-1) to read as follows:

(A-1) IN REGULATING THE ADMISSION OF STUDENTS, A MINIMUM SCORE ON ONE OR MORE STANDARDIZED APTITUDE OR ACHIEVEMENT TESTS, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE COLLEGE BOARD'S SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TESTS OR ITS ACHIEVEMENT OR ACT TESTS, OR A MINIMUM INDEX SCORE DERIVED BY UTILIZING ANY COMBINATION OF SCORES FROM MORE THAN ONE OF ANY SUCH STANDARDIZED TESTS, SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED AS A MINIMUM STANDARD FOR STUDENT ADMISSION TO ANY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY. NO PROVISION OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PRECLUDE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH SCORES TOGETHER WITH ACADEMIC COURSE GRADES, CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, IN DETERMINING QUALIFICATIONS FOR STUDENT ADMISSION, NOR TO PRECLUDE THE USE OF AN INDEX BASED UPON SUCH OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF A STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN MAKING SUCH ASSESSMENT OR CONSTRUCTING SUCH INDEX, NO MINIMUM SCORE ON ANY SUCH STANDARDIZED TEST OR COMBINATION OF STANDARDIZED TESTS SHALL BE REQUIRED AS A STANDARD FOR ADMISSION; AND FURTHER PROVIDED THAT THE COMPONENTS OF ANY SUCH INDEX SHALL NOT BE WEIGHTED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO REQUIRE, IN EFFECT, THAT A MINIMUM SCORE BE ATTAINED ON ANY SUCH STANDARDIZED TEST OR COMBINATION OF STANDARDIZED TESTS TO REACH AN INDEX SCORE WHICH CONSTITUTES THE CUT-OFF POINT FOR STUDENT ADMISSION OR REJECTION.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.