

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

1697--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 9, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, P. RIVERA, SCHIMMINGER, ORTIZ, ESPAILLAT -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ALFANO, BARRA, BRADLEY, CHRISTENSEN, CLARK, CYMBROWITZ, GALEF, HOOPER, HOYT, JACOBS, MAGEE, MAYERSOHN, MILLMAN, PERRY, PHEFFER, ROBINSON, SCARBOROUGH, SWEENEY, WEISENBERG, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "higher education community service act"

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that the American tradition of volunteer community service is
3 essential to the common good and is vital to the success of not-for-
4 profit agencies, institutions and organizations dealing with a vast
5 array of critical social problems. It recognizes growing support for the
6 idea that postsecondary students should receive recognition for substan-
7 tial commitment to volunteer service, and should be given greater
8 encouragement to participate in volunteer community service activities.
9 Volunteers and volunteer programs should be praised for their efforts in
10 helping and serving others, which result in changes in the way the
11 community views young people and in the way young people view their
12 responsibilities to the community.
13 The legislature further declares its desire to promote further inte-
14 gration of community service at institutions of higher education by
15 encouraging student-initiated and student-designated community service
16 projects.
17 S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to read
18 as follows:

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

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1 S 319. HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT. 1. SHORT TITLE. THIS
2 SECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "HIGHER EDUCATION COMMU-
3 NITY SERVICE ACT".

4 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT. THERE IS
5 HEREBY ESTABLISHED A HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT FOR THE
6 PURPOSE OF PROMOTING AND RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT BY
7 STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE HIGHER
8 EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT SHALL INCLUDE:

9 A. A CAMPUS BASED SCREENING PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AND NOMINATE SUCCESS-
10 FUL AND PROMISING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FOR RECOG-
11 NITION;

12 B. IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING QUALITY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS,
13 PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES INVOLVING POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS THAT PRODUCE A
14 SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY;

15 C. INCENTIVES FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, STUDENTS AND OTHER
16 MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN LONG TERM COMMUNITY
17 SERVICE PROGRAMS;

18 D. ENCOURAGEMENT OF INSTITUTIONS TO FORMULATE A SYSTEMATIC PROCESS TO
19 DISSEMINATE INFORMATION CONCERNING PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS TO THE
20 PARTICIPANTS OF GENERAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS ON OR OFF CAMPUS;

21 E. ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE PRIVATE FUNDS TO BE USED
22 TO PROMOTE A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICE RELATED PROJECTS. PRIVATE FUNDS
23 SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO DONATIONS, GRANTS AND FUNDRAISERS;
24 AND

25 F. ESTABLISHMENT OF A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM OF IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING
26 PILOT PROGRAMS AND ONGOING REVIEW AND EVALUATION.

27 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS. THE COMMISSIONER, IN
28 CONSULTATION WITH THE CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, THE CHANCELLOR
29 OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION
30 ON INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO
31 ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
32 EDUCATION AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

33 4. COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE. A. A COUNCIL FOR
34 HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE
35 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO THIS
36 SECTION. THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MEMBERS, ONE OF WHOM
37 SHALL BE THE COMMISSIONER, EX-OFFICIO, AND TEN OF WHOM SHALL BE
38 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR: TWO ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TEMPORARY
39 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, TWO ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE
40 ASSEMBLY, ONE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE
41 SENATE, AND ONE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE
42 ASSEMBLY. SUCH MEMBERS SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
43 UNIVERSITY, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND
44 UNIVERSITIES OF NEW YORK AND THE NEW YORK CAMPUS COMPACT. TWO OF THE
45 COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL BE STUDENTS, SELECTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE COUN-
46 CIL SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG ITS APPOINTED MEMBERS A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
47 WHO SHALL SERVE IN OFFICE FOR TERMS OF ONE YEAR AND WHO SHALL BE ELIGI-
48 BLE FOR REELECTION FOR SUCCESSIVE TERMS.

49 B. THE COUNCIL SHALL OVERSEE THE CREATION OF A STATEWIDE POSTSECONDARY
50 COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION REGARDING EXISTING
51 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, MAKE VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND
52 THE COMMUNITIES, INTEGRATE PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE INTO THE CURRIC-
53 ULUM, PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND COORDINATION, MONITOR AND EVALUATE VOLUNTEER
54 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTE THE CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC AND
55 COMMUNITY SERVICE.

1 C. THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR. MEMBERS OF
2 THE COUNCIL SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES BUT SHALL
3 BE REIMBURSED BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE FOUNDATION FOR
4 REASONABLE EXPENSES ACTUALLY AND NECESSARILY INCURRED BY THEM IN THE
5 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
6 D. THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT BY SEPTEMBER FIRST EACH YEAR TO THE GOVER-
7 NOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEM-
8 BLY ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION, WITH RECOMMENDA-
9 TIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES.
10 5. PETITIONING BY COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS OF
11 ITS APPOINTMENT, PETITION THE REGENTS TO INCORPORATE AS A PRIVATE, NOT-
12 FOR-PROFIT EDUCATION CORPORATION UNDER THIS CHAPTER, THE NEW YORK FOUN-
13 DATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE, TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO BE
14 USED AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT AND ADMINISTER ACTIVITIES
15 AUTHORIZED IN THIS SECTION, AND OTHER PROJECTS THAT ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST
16 COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES.
17 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of September next
18 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.