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

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3261

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 23, 2009
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Introduced by M. of A. BENJAMIN, ALFANO, JEFFRIES, MILLMAN, BROOK-KRAS-
  NY, EDDINGTON, GREENE, CYMBROWITZ, SPANO, ERRIGO, WALKER, ESPAILLAT --
  Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, COLTON, CROUCH, DIAZ, DUPREY,
  MAISEL, MAYERSOHN, ROBINSON, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to
  the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring a course of
  instruction in the awareness of hate crimes

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

1   Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 815 to
2 read as follows:
3   S 815. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN THE AWARENESS OF HATE CRIMES. 1. THE
4 COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO PROVIDE AND PRESCRIBE A COURSE OF
5 INSTRUCTION DESIGNED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE COMMISSION OF HATE
6 CRIMES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION HATE CRIMES SHALL MEAN OFFENSES
7 WHICH ARE COMMITTED BASED UPON THE RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCES-
8 TRY, GENDER, RELIGION, RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, AGE, DISABILITY OR SEXUAL
9 ORIENTATION OF THE VICTIM. SUCH INSTRUCTION SHALL INCLUDE EXAMPLES OF
10 SYMBOLS AND OBJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH HATE CRIMES AND THE EVENTS AND
11 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE SURROUNDING SUCH SYMBOLS AND OBJECTS.   SUCH
12 INSTRUCTION SHALL ALSO FOCUS ON THE MORAL ASPECTS AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
13 OF SUCH OFFENSES AND PROMOTE ATTITUDES OF TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE.
14   2. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TRUSTEES, PRINCIPAL OR OTHER PERSON IN
15 CHARGE OF EVERY PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL IN THE STATE SHALL
16 ARRANGE FOR GIVING SUCH COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN EVERY SCHOOL UNDER ITS
17 OR HIS OR HER CONTROL OR DIRECTION. SUCH INSTRUCTION SHALL BE GIVEN TO
18 ALL OF THE PUPILS IN EVERY SUCH SCHOOL FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN
19 FORTY-FIVE MINUTES IN EACH MONTH DURING WHICH SUCH SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.
20   S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next
21 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.

                                                          LBD05773-01-9