

5376

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 13, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. TITUS, N. RIVERA, WRIGHT, PHEFFER, AUBRY, ROBINSON, CLARK, LAVINE, PEOPLES, BOYLAND, BENEDETTO, JACOBS, MAGNARELLI, ESPAILLAT, DIAZ, JAFFEE, PERALTA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRADLEY, CAHILL, CHRISTENSEN, COLTON, EDDINGTON, FARRELL, GREENE, JOHN, V. LOPEZ, MAYERSOHN, McENENY, MILLMAN, NOLAN, O'DONNELL, PERRY, J. RIVERA, WEISENBERG, ZEBROWSKI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to a prenatal care initiative

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

1 Section 1. Section 3641 of the education law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:
3 2-A. PRENATAL CARE INITIATIVE. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, UPON APPLI-
4 CATION THEREFORE AND WITHIN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH PURPOSE,
5 PROVIDE GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
6 SERVICES WHICH ARE DESIGNED WITH THE INTENT OF IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES
7 BY WHICH SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY ASSIST PREGNANT STUDENTS IN PLANNING FOR
8 THEIR CONTINUED EDUCATION DURING AND AFTER THEIR PREGNANCY.
9 B. SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
10 SERVICES SHALL DESIGNATE A FACULTY MEMBER WHO SHALL SERVE AS A SUPPORT
11 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR DISSEMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT INFORMATION AND FOR
12 THE REFERRAL MECHANISM FOR STUDENTS IN NEED OF PRENATAL HEALTH CARE AND
13 RELATED SERVICES. SUCH DESIGNATED FACULTY MEMBER SHALL, AS MUCH AS
14 LEGALLY AND REASONABLY POSSIBLE, INVOLVE THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE
15 PREGNANT STUDENT IN THE PRENATAL HEALTH CARE CHOICES AVAILABLE TO SUCH
16 STUDENT. PARENTAL OR GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT TO THE EXTENT
17 POSSIBLE WITHOUT UNDULY DELAYING THE STUDENT'S RECEIPT OF NECESSARY
18 HEALTH CARE AND RELATED SERVICES. ALL SUCH SERVICES SHALL BE COORDINATED
19 TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE WITH SERVICES AVAILABLE IN OTHER STATE,
20 LOCAL AND FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS.

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

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1 C. EDUCATIONAL CHOICES SHOULD ALSO BE PRESENTED TO THE PREGNANT
2 STUDENT. STUDENTS SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THEIR OPTION TO REMAIN IN THEIR
3 PRESENT SCHOOL, TRANSFER TO ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL OR PROGRAM OR TO RECEIVE
4 HOME INSTRUCTION.

5 D. PREGNANT STUDENTS OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO
6 CONTINUE TO ATTEND SCHOOL UNLESS MEDICAL REASONS INDICATE THE CONTRARY.
7 IF THERE IS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE, REGULAR ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES SHOULD
8 BE FOLLOWED.

9 E. THE PREGNANT STUDENT AND HER PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHOULD BE PROVIDED
10 WITH INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE SUCH STUDENT TO SEEK THE SERVICES
11 NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH STUDENT'S EDUCATION.

12 F. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
13 SHALL COMPILE MONTHLY REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF PREGNANT STUDENTS
14 COVERED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

15 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.