

4847

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 27, 2009

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Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

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:

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

22     2. ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT. THERE IS  
23 HEREBY ESTABLISHED A HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT FOR THE  
24 PURPOSE OF PROMOTING AND RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER SERVICE INVOLVEMENT BY

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

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1 STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE HIGHER  
2 EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT SHALL INCLUDE:

3 A. A CAMPUS BASED SCREENING PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AND NOMINATE SUCCESS-  
4 FUL AND PROMISING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FOR RECOG-  
5 NITION;

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

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

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

15 E. ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE PRIVATE FUNDS TO BE USED  
16 TO PROMOTE A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICE RELATED PROJECTS; AND

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

19 3. COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE. A. A COUNCIL FOR  
20 HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE  
21 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO THIS  
22 SECTION. THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MEMBERS, ONE OF WHOM  
23 SHALL BE THE COMMISSIONER, EX-OFFICIO, AND TEN OF WHOM SHALL BE  
24 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR: TWO ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TEMPORARY  
25 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, TWO ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE  
26 ASSEMBLY, ONE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
27 SENATE, AND ONE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
28 ASSEMBLY. SUCH MEMBERS SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
29 UNIVERSITY, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND  
30 UNIVERSITIES OF NEW YORK. TWO OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL BE STUDENTS,  
31 SELECTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE. THE  
32 COUNCIL SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG ITS APPOINTED MEMBERS A CHAIR AND VICE  
33 CHAIR WHO SHALL SERVE IN OFFICE FOR TERMS OF ONE YEAR AND WHO SHALL BE  
34 ELIGIBLE FOR REELECTION FOR SUCCESSIVE TERMS.

35 B. THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR. MEMBERS OF  
36 THE COUNCIL SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES BUT SHALL  
37 BE REIMBURSED BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE FOUNDATION FOR  
38 REASONABLE EXPENSES ACTUALLY AND NECESSARILY INCURRED BY THEM IN THE  
39 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

40 4. PETITIONING BY COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS OF  
41 ITS APPOINTMENT, PETITION THE REGENTS TO INCORPORATE AS A PRIVATE, NOT-  
42 FOR-PROFIT EDUCATION CORPORATION UNDER THIS CHAPTER, THE NEW YORK FOUN-  
43 DATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE, TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO BE  
44 USED AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT AND ADMINISTER ACTIVITIES  
45 AUTHORIZED IN THIS SECTION, AND OTHER PROJECTS THAT ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST  
46 COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

47 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS. THE COMMISSIONER, IN  
48 CONSULTATION WITH THE CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, THE CHANCELLOR  
49 OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION  
50 ON INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO  
51 ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
52 EDUCATION AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

53 6. RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE PROGRAMS. A. THE COUNCIL ON HIGHER  
54 EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF IDENTIFYING  
55 PROGRAMS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL RECOGNI-  
56 TION.

1 B. THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT PARTICIPANTS AND PROGRAMS FOR LEGISLATIVE  
2 RECOGNITION, PUBLISH THE DESIGNATED VOLUNTEERS OF EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS IN  
3 A VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL AND REVIEW AND RECOMMEND OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT  
4 AND/OR INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN  
5 COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THEIR ACADEMIC CAREERS AND LATER IN LIFE.

6 C. THE COUNCIL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE LEGISLATURE, SHALL SPONSOR AN  
7 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON CRITICAL ISSUES FACING COMMUNITIES IN THE  
8 STATE WHICH COULD BE ASSISTED BY VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS.

9 D. AWARDS TO SELECTED VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS SHALL BE MADE BY, AND  
10 PROVIDED FROM FUNDS DERIVED FROM, THE NEW YORK HIGHER EDUCATION COMMU-  
11 NITY SERVICE FOUNDATION, A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION PURSUANT TO THE  
12 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION. ALL AWARDS SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COMME-  
13 MORATIVE PLAQUE.

14 E. THE COUNCIL SHALL OVERSEE THE CREATION OF A STATEWIDE POSTSECONDARY  
15 COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION REGARDING EXISTING  
16 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, MAKE VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND  
17 THE COMMUNITIES, INTEGRATE PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE INTO THE CURRIC-  
18 ULUM, PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND COORDINATION, MONITOR AND EVALUATE VOLUNTEER  
19 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTE THE CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC AND  
20 COMMUNITY SERVICE.

21 F. THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT BY SEPTEMBER FIRST EACH YEAR TO THE GOVER-  
22 NOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEM-  
23 BLY ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION, WITH RECOMMENDA-  
24 TIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

25 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of September next  
26 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.