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I N S E N A T E

May 13, 2010

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the dissection of
animals

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 809 of the education law, as
2 amended by chapter 542 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as
3 follows:
4 4. Dissection of animals. Any student expressing a moral or religious
5 objection to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an
6 animal, either wholly or in part, shall be provided the opportunity to
7 undertake and complete an alternative project that shall be approved by
8 such student's teacher; provided, however, that such objection is
9 substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian.
10 Students who perform alternative projects who do not perform or witness
11 the dissection of animals shall not be penalized. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
12 OR TRUSTEES OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL DEVELOP A POLICY TO GIVE
13 REASONABLE NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS AND STUDENTS' PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS
14 ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION. SUCH NOTICE SHALL BE
15 MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE SCHOOL AND DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS AND
16 STUDENTS AT LEAST ONCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.
17 S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
18 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.

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