

8642

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

September 21, 2011

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Introduced by M. of A. WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to including the attacks  
on September 11, 2001 in courses of instruction in patriotism and  
citizenship

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

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 and subdivision 3 of  
2     section 801 of the education law, as amended by chapter 574 of the laws  
3     of 1997, are amended to read as follows:  
4     In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obli-  
5     gation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual  
6     qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of  
7     citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the  
8     State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism,  
9     citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the  
10    study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom  
11    trail and underground railroad), the Holocaust, [and] the mass starva-  
12    tion in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, AND THE ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11,  
13    2001, to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state. The  
14    boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school  
15    districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such  
16    courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils  
17    attending such schools, over the age of eight years, shall attend upon  
18    such instruction.  
19    3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such  
20    courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights  
21    issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of  
22    genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground rail-  
23    road), the Holocaust, [and] the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to  
24    1850, AND THE ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, and in the history, mean-

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

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1 ing, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of  
2 the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independ-  
3 ence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments ther-  
4 eto, and the period of instruction in each of the grades in such  
5 subjects. They shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such  
6 instruction and for such other matters as are required for carrying into  
7 effect the objects and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall  
8 be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be  
9 inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects.  
10 The commissioner may, in his discretion, cause all or a portion of the  
11 public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be with-  
12 held for failure of the school authorities of such district or city to  
13 provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon such  
14 instruction, as herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the  
15 rules of the regents adopted as herein provided.  
16 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.