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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 10, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. REILLY, LANCMAN, CLARK, GALEF, COLTON, MILLMAN, M. MILLER, JAFFEE, GABRYSZAK, WEPRIN, HOOPER, BARRON, N. RIVERA, CAMARA, LINARES, P. RIVERA, CASTRO, ENGLEBRIGHT, STEVENSON, MENG -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, GIBSON, GOTTFRIED, JEFFRIES, V. LOPEZ, MAGNARELLI, McENENY, SCHIMEL, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring school districts to distribute to students in each school building written information about the public library and how to obtain a library card

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 815 to read as follows:

S 815. DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD APPLICATION MATERIALS. 1. DEFINITIONS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL BE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

A. "SCHOOL DISTRICT" SHALL MEAN ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK THAT CONTAINS ONE OR MORE SCHOOLS WITH ANY COMBINATION OF GRADES FROM AND INCLUDING KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY.

B. "PUBLIC LIBRARY" SHALL MEAN ANY PUBLIC OR ASSOCIATION LIBRARY AS DEFINED IN SECTION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE OF THIS TITLE WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY.

2. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ABOUT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CARDS TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

A. ANNUALLY TO EVERY STUDENT OF SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT UPON HIS OR HER ENTRY INTO KINDERGARTEN, GRADE SIX AND GRADE NINE;

B. TO EVERY STUDENT UPON HIS OR HER ENROLLMENT AS A NEW STUDENT; AND

C. AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY IN EACH SCHOOL WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS WHO WISH TO OBTAIN SUCH MATERIALS.

3. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL CONSULT ANNUALLY WITH THE DIRECTOR OF EACH PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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IN ORDER TO REQUEST COPIES OF MATERIALS CONTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING THE LIBRARY, INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW STUDENTS MAY OBTAIN A LIBRARY CARD AND AN APPLICATION FOR A LIBRARY CARD.

4. EACH PUBLIC LIBRARY THAT IS LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT COPIES OF SUCH MATERIALS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR DISTRIBUTION AS DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION SO THAT EACH SCHOOL MAY SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

5. IN THE EVENT THERE IS NO PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

6. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

7. NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO EXPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.