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

269

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- 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 requiring a course of instruction in the awareness of hate crimes

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. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN THE AWARENESS OF HATE CRIMES. 1. THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO PROVIDE AND PRESCRIBE A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION DESIGNED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE COMMISSION OF HATE CRIMES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION HATE CRIMES SHALL MEAN OFFENSES WHICH ARE COMMITTED BASED UPON THE RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, GENDER, RELIGION, RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, AGE, DISABILITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF THE VICTIM. SUCH INSTRUCTION SHALL INCLUDE EXAMPLES OF SYMBOLS AND OBJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH HATE CRIMES AND THE EVENTS AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE SURROUNDING SUCH SYMBOLS AND OBJECTS. SUCH INSTRUCTION SHALL ALSO FOCUS ON THE MORAL ASPECTS AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH OFFENSES AND PROMOTE ATTITUDES OF TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE.

2. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TRUSTEES, PRINCIPAL OR OTHER PERSON IN CHARGE OF EVERY PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL IN THE STATE SHALL ARRANGE FOR GIVING SUCH COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN EVERY SCHOOL UNDER ITS OR HIS OR HER CONTROL OR DIRECTION. SUCH INSTRUCTION SHALL BE GIVEN TO ALL OF THE PUPILS IN EVERY SUCH SCHOOL FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES IN EACH MONTH DURING WHICH SUCH SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding 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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