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

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2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 16, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. TOWNS, GIBSON, CASTRO, BOYLAND -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing the issuance of college degrees in religion by certain religious organizations

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

Section 1. Section 224 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

5. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION TO THE CONTRARY, A CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE, TEMPLE OR OTHER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION OR SECT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREES IN RELIGION WITHOUT REGISTRATION OR APPROVAL BY THE REGENTS, THE COMMISSIONER OR THE DEPARTMENT, PROVIDED THAT THE SPECIFIC TITLES OF SUCH DEGREES SHALL NOT DUPLICATE THE TITLE OF ANY EARNED DEGREE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE RULES OF THE REGENTS. THE PROGRAM LEADING TO SUCH DEGREES SHALL NOT BE DEEMED APPROVED PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF ARTICLE THIRTEEN OF THIS CHAPTER AND SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM LICENSURE UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED ONE OF THIS CHAPTER.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD10256-01-1