

8642

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

September 21, 2011

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.