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

S. 6322 A. 9127

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

January 25, 2012

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. MONTGOMERY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. N. RIVERA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, BARRON, CAMARA, CASTRO, CRESPO, ESPINAL, JEFFRIES, LINARES, MENG, ORTIZ, J. RIVERA, P. RIVERA, RODRIGUEZ, SIMOTAS, TITUS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to monthly meetings of the New York state board of regents

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

Section 1. Section 204 of the education law is amended to read as follows:

S 204. Meetings and absences. 1. The regents may provide for regular meetings, and the chancellor, or the commissioner of education, or any five regents, may at any time call a special meeting of the board of regents and fix the time and place therefor; and at least ten days' notice of every meeting shall be mailed to the usual address of each regent.

2. If any regent shall fail to attend three consecutive meetings, without excuse accepted as satisfactory by the regents, he may be deemed to have resigned and the regents shall then report the vacancy to the legislature, which shall fill it.

3. A. THE REGENTS SHALL HOLD AT LEAST TWO MEETINGS IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR IN A CITY HAVING A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE. SUCH MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD AT A TIME TO ENSURE PARENTAL ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION.

B. (I) THE REGENTS SHALL ANNOUNCE THE LOCATION, TIME AND AGENDA OF EACH MEETING TO BE HELD IN A CITY HAVING A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE WHENEVER SUCH MEETING IS SCHEDULED, BUT NOT LATER THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE MEETING DATE TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF AN AGENDA FOR ANY SUCH MEETING IS NOT AVAILABLE, SUCH AGENDA SHALL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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

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(II) SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGENTS' PUBLIC WEBSITE AND THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE ANNOUNCED. THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL INFORM PARENT EDUCATION ADVOCATES, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS AND OTHER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF THE LOCATION, TIME AND AGENDA OF SUCH MEETINGS HELD IN A CITY HAVING A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE TERM "PARENT EDUCATION ADVOCATES" SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO PARENT ASSOCIATIONS, PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS, SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAMS, PRESIDENTS COUNCILS, DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAMS AND CITYWIDE AND COMMUNITYWIDE EDUCATION COUNCILS.

C. AT EACH MEETING OF THE REGENTS HELD IN A CITY HAVING A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE, THE PUBLIC SHALL BE ALLOTTED A PERIOD OF TIME, NOT LESS THAN THIRTY MINUTES, TO SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC ON THE AGENDA. THE PUBLIC SPEAKING PERIOD SHALL TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE ACTION.

4. EVERY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE REGENTS SHALL BE WEBCAST IN THE SAME MANNER AS GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be made on or before such date.