

5247--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 3, 2011

Introduced by Sen. YOUNG -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing the establishment of regional high school districts

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 39-A
2 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 39-A

4 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS

5 SECTION 1920. REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL; ESTABLISHMENT.

6 1921. OPERATION BY BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

7 1922. ADDITIONAL STATE AID.

8 S 1920. REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL; ESTABLISHMENT. A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
9 MAY BE FORMED BY A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BY TWO OR MORE SCHOOL
10 DISTRICTS, WHICH ARE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN CITIES HAVING A POPULATION
11 OF LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND INHABITANTS, CENTRAL
12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR COMMON SCHOOL
13 DISTRICTS, PROVIDED THAT ALL SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE WHOLLY CONTAINED
14 WITHIN THE SAME BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SUPERVISORY
15 DISTRICT. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE PROVISIONS
16 OF THIS CHAPTER AS TO THE COURSES OF STUDY, THE QUALIFICATIONS AND
17 EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF, AND THE MAINTENANCE, CONDUCT AND
18 SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL APPLY TO
19 A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL. ANY CONTRACT FOR A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE
20 SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSIONER AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO
21 APPROVAL BY THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS ELECTING TO FORM THE
22 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CONTRACT
23 SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

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

LBD10142-06-1

1 1. THE CONTRACT SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN TWO SCHOOL
2 YEARS AND, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER, MAY BE RENEWED BY
3 MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION;

4 2. THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL COMMENCE OPERATIONS ON THE FIRST OF
5 JULY, AND SHALL NOT CEASE OPERATIONS BEFORE THE THIRTIETH OF JUNE IN ANY
6 SCHOOL YEAR;

7 3. THE CONTRACT SHALL STATE WHETHER THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE
8 OPERATED BY ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, HEREINAFTER
9 REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS THE "HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT," OR BY THE
10 BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT AUTHOR-
11 IZED BY SECTION NINETEEN HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE OF THIS CHAPTER;

12 4. THE CONTRACT SHALL SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE STUDENTS OF EACH
13 PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE REGIONAL HIGH
14 SCHOOL, AND THE COST OF SUCH TRANSPORTATION SHALL BE A CHARGE AGAINST
15 EACH SUCH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BE FUNDED IN THE SAME MANNER
16 AS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED THIR-
17 TY-FIVE OF THIS CHAPTER;

18 5. SUCH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL OPERATE ITS OWN EXTRA-CURRICULAR
19 ACTIVITIES AND INTER-SCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, AND THE STUDENTS ATTENDING
20 SUCH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH
21 ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS AND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN
22 SUCH ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS OF THEIR PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT;

23 6. IF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IS OPERATED BY A HOSTING SCHOOL
24 DISTRICT, THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CONTRACT SHALL MEET THE
25 FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

26 A. THE CONTRACT SHALL DESIGNATE THE SITE OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL,
27 WHICH SHALL BE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL
28 DISTRICTS. THE HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
29 OPERATION, SUPERVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AS
30 SHALL BE DESIGNATED IN THE CONTRACT,

31 B. THE CONTRACT SHALL SPECIFY THAT THE STUDENTS OF EACH PARTICIPATING
32 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL REMAIN AS STUDENTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTICIPAT-
33 ING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND THEY SHALL BE TREATED AND COUNTED AS SUCH FOR
34 PURPOSES OF ALL STATE AID CALCULATIONS PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER,

35 C. THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL OPERATE ITS OWN EXTRA-CURRICULAR
36 ACTIVITIES AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND THE STUDENTS ATTENDING SUCH
37 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES
38 AND ATHLETICS AND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIV-
39 ITIES AND ATHLETICS OF THEIR PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT,

40 D. THE CONTRACT SHALL PROVIDE THAT ALL TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF
41 MEMBERS OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, EXCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT
42 OF SCHOOLS, WHOSE SERVICES IN THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE NO
43 LONGER NEEDED BECAUSE OF THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OR THE
44 TRANSFERENCE OF STUDENTS TO AN EXISTING REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, SHALL BE
45 GRANTED EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS IN THE HOST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
46 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION,

47 E. IN ANY CASE IN WHICH A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT SENDS
48 STUDENTS TO A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OPERATED BY A HOSTING SCHOOL
49 DISTRICT, EACH TEACHER AND ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED IN
50 THE EDUCATION OF SUCH STUDENTS BY SUCH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT
51 PRIOR TO THE TIME THAT SUCH COMPONENT DISTRICT SENDS ITS STUDENTS TO THE
52 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE CONSIDERED EMPLOYEES OF THE HOSTING SCHOOL
53 DISTRICT, WITH THE SAME TENURE STATUS HELD IN SUCH COMPONENT DISTRICT.
54 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, WHEN A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT TAKES
55 BACK STUDENTS THAT IT SENT TO ANOTHER DISTRICT ON A TUITION BASIS AND
56 SENDS SUCH STUDENTS TO A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OPERATED PURSUANT TO THIS

ARTICLE, THE HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE THE SENDING DISTRICT FOR PURPOSES OF THE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS PROVIDED IN SECTION THREE THOUSAND FOURTEEN-C OF THIS CHAPTER,

F. IF THE NUMBER OF TEACHING AND OTHER POSITIONS NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED BY A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IS LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE TO BE CONSIDERED EMPLOYEES OF THE HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SUCH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AS PROVIDED BY PARAGRAPH E OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE SERVICES OF THE TEACHERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES HAVING THE LEAST SENIORITY IN THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE TENURE AREA OF THE POSITION SHALL BE DISCONTINUED. SUCH TEACHERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES SHALL BE PLACED ON A PREFERRED ELIGIBLE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO A VACANCY THAT MAY THEREAFTER OCCUR IN AN OFFICE OR POSITION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE "RECEIVING DISTRICT" AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE THOUSAND FOURTEEN-C OF THIS CHAPTER, FROM WHICH A PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS TAKEN BACK STUDENTS, AND THE HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SIMILAR TO THE ONE SUCH TEACHER OR OTHER EMPLOYEE FILLED IN SUCH COMPONENT DISTRICT. THE TEACHERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES ON SUCH PREFERRED LISTS SHALL BE REINSTATED OR APPOINTED TO SUCH VACANCIES IN SUCH CORRESPONDING OR SIMILAR POSITIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THE HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE ORDER OF THEIR LENGTH OF SERVICE IN SUCH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT, WITHIN SEVEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE PLACEMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE ON SAID LIST, AND

G. FOR ANY SUCH TEACHER OR OTHER EMPLOYEE AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS D AND E OF THIS SUBDIVISION, FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE AND ANY OTHER PURPOSES, THE LENGTH OF SERVICE CREDITED IN SUCH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE CREDITED AS EMPLOYMENT TIME WITH THE HOSTING SCHOOL DISTRICT;

7. THE CONTRACT SHALL SPECIFY THAT THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLETION OF ALL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS FOR THE STUDENTS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND

8. THIS SECTION SHALL IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE RIGHTS OF ANY OF SUCH TEACHERS OR OTHER EMPLOYEES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION GRANTED BY ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW.

S 1921. OPERATION BY BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION WHICH ARE PARTIES TO AN AGREEMENT TO OPERATE A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER, MAY CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OF THE SUPERVISORY DISTRICT IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL. SUCH CONTRACT SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN TWO SCHOOL YEARS AND, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER, MAY BE RENEWED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. EVERY SUCH CONTRACT SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ON THE FIRST OF JULY, AND SHALL ONLY CEASE OPERATIONS ON THE THIRTIETH OF JUNE OF ANY SCHOOL YEAR.

1. UPON ENTRY INTO SUCH CONTRACT, THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SHALL TAKE OVER ALL OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS, AND ANY EMPLOYEES OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OR OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL BECOME EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND THE

1 PROVISIONS OF SECTION THREE THOUSAND FOURTEEN-A OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL
2 APPLY. SUCH EMPLOYEES SHALL BE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE
3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND SHALL NOT BE DEEMED EMPLOYEES OF THE REGIONAL
4 HIGH SCHOOL OR THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR ANY PURPOSE. UPON
5 TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT, THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OR THE PARTICIPAT-
6 ING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL TAKE OVER THE EDUCA-
7 TIONAL PROGRAMS AND THE EMPLOYEES SHALL BECOME EMPLOYEES OF THE HOSTING
8 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE PROVISIONS OF
9 SECTION THREE THOUSAND FOURTEEN-B OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL APPLY.

10 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISIONS OF SECTION NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY OF
11 THIS TITLE OR ANY OTHER LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRA-
12 TIVE EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PROGRAMS OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
13 SHALL BE A CHARGE UPON THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE
14 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
15 SHALL PORTION SUCH EXPENSES TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE
16 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED IN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
17 THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCA-
18 TIONAL SERVICES. THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SHALL NOT
19 CHARGE ANY PORTION OF THE PROGRAM OR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCURRED
20 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION TO ITS OTHER COMPONENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
21 SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM EXPENSES SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR AID
22 PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY OF THIS
23 TITLE, BUT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AID PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-SIX
24 HUNDRED TWO OF THIS CHAPTER TO THE SAME EXTENT AS THE EXPENSES OF ANY
25 OTHER HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM. NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL
26 BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM
27 CONTRACTING WITH THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR AIDA-
28 BLE SHARED SERVICES IN THE SAME MANNER AND UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AS
29 ANY OTHER COMPONENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE COST OF SUCH AIDABLE SHARED
30 SERVICES SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AID PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FIVE OF
31 SECTION NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY OF THIS TITLE.

32 3. DURING THE TERM OF A CONTRACT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, ALL SCHOOLS
33 AND OTHER FACILITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE
34 REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WHICH ARE USED BY THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCA-
35 TIONAL SERVICES IN THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE
36 DEEMED LEASED TO THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AT NO
37 COST. SUCH SCHOOLS AND OTHER FACILITIES SHALL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE
38 PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ANY CAPITAL EXPENSES AND BUILDING
39 MAINTENANCE COSTS INCURRED WITH RESPECT TO SUCH FACILITIES SHALL BE A
40 CHARGE UPON THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
41 TERMS OF THE CONTRACT. SUCH CAPITAL EXPENSES AND MAINTENANCE COSTS SHALL
42 NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR AID PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION NINETEEN
43 HUNDRED FIFTY OF THIS TITLE BUT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AID PURSUANT TO
44 SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED TWO OF THIS CHAPTER TO THE SAME EXTENT AS
45 SUCH EXPENSES OF ANY OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT.

46 4. STUDENTS RECEIVING INSTRUCTION FROM THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL
47 NOT BE DEEMED TO BE ENROLLED IN THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
48 SERVICES, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN A SHARED
49 SERVICE IN THEIR ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE WHICH SHALL BE INCLUDED IN
50 THE ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE COUNTS OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL
51 DISTRICTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF STATE AID. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS SHALL BE
52 ISSUED BY THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
53 OF EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
54 PERFORMANCE OF ITS STUDENTS IN THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL UNDER THE STATE
55 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM AS IF THE STUDENTS OF EACH PARTICIPATING DISTRICT

1 WHERE IN ATTENDANCE AT A HIGH SCHOOL OPERATED BY THE PARTICIPATING
2 DISTRICT.
3 S 1922. ADDITIONAL STATE AID. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF
4 LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION WHICH ARE PARTIES TO AN
5 AGREEMENT TO OPERATE A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND WHICH DO IN FACT OPERATE
6 A REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL STATE AID PURSU-
7 ANT TO SUBDIVISION FOURTEEN OF SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED TWO OF THIS
8 CHAPTER IN THE SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT
9 WHICH QUALIFIES FOR SUCH AID PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH J OF SUBDIVISION
10 FOURTEEN OF SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED TWO OF THIS CHAPTER.
11 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.