

S. 1875--B

A. 1522--B

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

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

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

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IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, ESPAILLAT, SAMPSON -- 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 -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. THIELE, JAFFEE, MILLER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. MAGNARELLI, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to gifted and talented pupils with special needs, and to repeal certain provisions of such law related thereto

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 3602-c of the education law is  
2     amended by adding a new paragraph g to read as follows:  
3     G. "TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL" SHALL MEAN THOSE PUPILS WHO GIVE EVIDENCE OF  
4     THE POTENTIAL FOR HIGH COGNITIVE PROCESSING CAPABILITIES COMMENSURATE  
5     WITH OR CONTRARY TO COGNITIVE PROCESSING TAKEN AS NORMS OF REGULAR  
6     EDUCATION IN AREAS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: SPECIFIC ACADEMICS,  
7     GENERAL INTELLECTUAL ABILITY, CREATIVITY, LEADERSHIP, AND/OR VISUAL,  
8     SPATIAL OR PERFORMING ARTS; AND ALSO GIVE EVIDENCE OF ONE OR MORE DISA-  
9     BILITIES AS DEFINED BY FEDERAL OR STATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SUCH AS,  
10    BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

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

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1 DISORDERS, EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AUTISM  
2 SPECTRUM, OR OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS, SUCH AS ADHD. SUCH TERM SHALL  
3 INCLUDE THOSE PUPILS WHO REQUIRE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OR SERVICES BEYOND  
4 THOSE NORMALLY PROVIDED BY THE REGULAR SCHOOL PROGRAM IN ORDER TO REAL-  
5 IZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

6 S 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 3602-c of the education  
7 law, as amended by chapter 474 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 a. "Services" shall mean instruction in the areas of gifted pupils,  
10 TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS, career education and education for students  
11 with disabilities, and counseling, psychological and social work  
12 services related to such instruction provided during the regular school  
13 year for pupils enrolled in a nonpublic school located in a school  
14 district, provided that such instruction is given to pupils enrolled in  
15 the public schools of such district.

16 S 3. Section 4451 of the education law, as added by chapter 740 of the  
17 laws of 1982, is amended to read as follows:

18 S 4451. Powers of the department with respect to gifted pupils.  
19 [Subject to the availability of funds, the] THE state education depart-  
20 ment is hereby authorized [and], empowered AND DIRECTED to assist  
21 districts in meeting the educational needs EQUALLY of BOTH GENERAL  
22 EDUCATION AND DISABLED gifted pupils, WHO ARE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS  
23 TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS, through the following:

24 1. provide information to school districts concerning development of  
25 programs, curriculum resources, instructional procedures and strategies  
26 to identify and encourage EQUALLY BOTH GENERAL EDUCATION AND DISABLED  
27 gifted pupils, WHO ARE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL  
28 STUDENTS;

29 2. provide technical assistance and [inservice] IN-SERVICE education,  
30 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION for teachers and admin-  
31 istrators;

32 3. maintain a record of programs available, and make this record  
33 available for public inspection;

34 4. develop, maintain, and distribute a handbook for parents of BOTH  
35 GENERAL EDUCATION AND DISABLED gifted pupils, WHO ARE COMMONLY REFERRED  
36 TO AS TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS.

37 S 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 4452 of the  
38 education law, as added by chapter 740 of the laws of 1982, is amended  
39 to read as follows:

40 In order to provide for educational programs to meet special needs of  
41 gifted pupils, the commissioner is hereby authorized AND DIRECTED to  
42 make recommendations to school districts in accordance with the  
43 provisions of this subdivision and section thirty-six hundred two of  
44 this chapter.

45 S 5. Subdivision 1 of section 4452 of the education law is amended by  
46 adding a new paragraph a-1 to read as follows:

47 A-1. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE TERM "TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL" SHALL MEAN  
48 THOSE PUPILS WHO GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR HIGH COGNITIVE PROC-  
49 ESSING CAPABILITIES COMMENSURATE WITH OR CONTRARY TO COGNITIVE PROCESS-  
50 ING TAKEN AS NORMS OF REGULAR EDUCATION IN AREAS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMIT-  
51 ED TO: SPECIFIC ACADEMICS, GENERAL INTELLECTUAL ABILITY, CREATIVITY,  
52 LEADERSHIP, AND/OR VISUAL, SPATIAL OR PERFORMING ARTS; AND ALSO GIVE  
53 EVIDENCE OF ONE OR MORE DISABILITIES AS DEFINED BY FEDERAL OR STATE  
54 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SPECIFIC LEARNING  
55 DISABILITIES, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS, EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL DISOR-  
56 DERS, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AUTISM SPECTRUM, OR OTHER HEALTH IMPAIR-

MENTS, SUCH AS ADHD. SUCH DEFINITION SHALL INCLUDE THOSE PUPILS WHO REQUIRE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OR SERVICES BEYOND THOSE NORMALLY PROVIDED BY THE REGULAR SCHOOL PROGRAM IN ORDER TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

(I) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE, THE TERMS "DISABILITY" AND "DISABLED" SHALL MEAN A CHILD:

A. WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS (INCLUDING DEAFNESS), SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS, VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (INCLUDING BLINDNESS), EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE, ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS, OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS, OR SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES; AND

B. WHO, BY REASON THEREOF, NEEDS SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES WITHIN A GIFTED PROGRAM.

(II) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, THE TERM "SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY" MEANS A DISORDER IN ONE OR MORE OF THE BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES INVOLVED IN UNDERSTANDING OR IN USING LANGUAGE, SPOKEN OR WRITTEN, WHICH DISORDER MAY MANIFEST ITSELF IN THE IMPERFECT ABILITY TO LISTEN, THINK, SPEAK, READ, WRITE, SPELL, OR DO MATHEMATICAL CALCULATIONS.

S 6. Paragraphs c, d, e and f of subdivision 1 of section 4452 of the education law are REPEALED and five new paragraphs c, d, e, f and g are added to read as follows:

C. PRIOR TO PAYMENT OF STATE FUNDS FOR EDUCATION OF GIFTED PUPILS AND TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS, A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSIONER A SUMMARY PLAN FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND EDUCATION OF GIFTED PUPILS AND TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS. THE PLAN SHALL BE IN FORM AND CONTENT AS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

D. UPON ACCEPTANCE BY A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE APPORTIONMENTS MADE UNDER SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED TWO OF THIS CHAPTER SUCH DISTRICT SHALL USE SUCH FUNDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SERVICES TO GIFTED PUPILS AND TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS. SUCH SERVICES SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO IDENTIFICATION, INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS, GIFTED IEPs (GIEPS) DEVELOPED BY CERTIFIED GIFTED AND TALENTED LEARNING SPECIALISTS, COUNSELING, PLANNING, IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND PROGRAM EVALUATION. A BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER DISTRICT OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE THE PROGRAM AND/OR SERVICES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER UNDER GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

E. THE IDENTIFICATION OF PUPILS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EITHER GIFTED PROGRAMS OR TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THIS CHAPTER SHALL COMMENCE THROUGH THE REFERRAL OF A PARENT, TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR.

F. UPON REFERRAL OF A PUPIL FOR PARTICIPATION IN EITHER A GIFTED PROGRAM OR TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THIS CHAPTER, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL SO INFORM THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF SUCH PUPIL'S REFERRAL AND SHALL SEEK THEIR APPROVAL TO ADMINISTER DIAGNOSTIC TESTS OR OTHER EVALUATION MECHANISMS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES OF THE DISTRICT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN SUCH GIFTED OR TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM. FAILING TO RECEIVE APPROVAL, THE CHILD SHALL NOT BE TESTED, EVALUATED OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. IN NO CASE SHALL THE PARENT, GUARDIAN OR PUPIL BE CHARGED A FEE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH DIAGNOSTIC TESTS OR OTHER EVALUATION MECHANISMS.

G. THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A PUPIL DESIGNATED AS GIFTED OR TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL SHALL BE INFORMED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITIES OF THE PUPIL'S PLACEMENT IN SUCH GIFTED OR TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

S 7. Section 4453 of the education law is REPEALED and a new section 4453 is added to read as follows:

S 4453. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED PUPILS. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AN ADVISORY COUNCIL

1 ON THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS. SUCH COUNCIL  
2 SHALL ASSIST AND ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS DESIGNEES WITH RESPECT  
3 TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND  
4 TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS AND PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH.  
5 2. SUCH ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONSIST  
6 OF AT LEAST TEN MEMBERS, WHO ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH GENERAL EDUCA-  
7 TION AND DISABLED GIFTED PUPILS OR WHO HAVE SPECIALIZED IN THE EDUCATION  
8 OF SUCH PUPILS, PROVIDED, HOWEVER THAT SUCH ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL  
9 INCLUDE AT LEAST A PLURALITY OF PARENTS OF SUCH PUPILS, INCLUDING  
10 PARENTS OF THOSE TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS. THE MEMBERS SHALL BE RESI-  
11 DENTS OF THIS STATE AND SHALL BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR COMPE-  
12 TENCE, CONCERN, AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND  
13 TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL PUPILS.  
14 3. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES EACH YEAR AT A  
15 LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
16 SHALL REPORT AT LEAST BIANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSIONER.  
17 S 8. This act shall take effect April 1, 2015; provided, however, that  
18 effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule  
19 or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effec-  
20 tive date is authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.