

3771

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 29, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. GLICK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABBATE,  
GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Educa-  
tion

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a student  
complaint system for the state university of New York and the city  
university of New York

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

1     Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 239-b  
2     to read as follows:  
3     S 239-B. STUDENT COMPLAINT TRACKING SYSTEM. 1. ESTABLISHMENT.     WITHIN  
4     ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE  
5     CHANCELLOR SHALL ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO COLLECT, PROCESS, AND TRACK  
6     COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED TO THE CHANCELLOR BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ENROLLED  
7     IN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. FOR THE  
8     PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A "STUDENT COMPLAINT" SHALL BE DEFINED AS AN  
9     EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY WHICH EXPLICITLY  
10    EXPECTS AN ACTIONABLE RESPONSE OR RESOLUTION THAT IS THE RESULT OF AN  
11    ACTION OR INACTION UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY.  
12    2. REQUIREMENTS. THE COMPLAINT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBDIVISION  
13    ONE OF THIS SECTION SHALL: (A) CREATE AN INDIVIDUAL CASE NUMBER FOR EACH  
14    COMPLAINT PROCESSED AND TRACKED IN THE SYSTEM; (B) ALLOW FOR THE REPORT-  
15    ING OF COMPLAINTS, DISAGGREGATED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; (C) ALLOW  
16    FOR THE REPORTING OF COMPLAINTS, DISAGGREGATED BY TOPIC OR SUBJECT  
17    MATTER; (D) ALLOW FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF COMPLAINTS BY VARIOUS METHODS TO  
18    INSURE THE ABILITY OF ALL STUDENTS TO REASONABLY FILE THEIR COMPLAINTS,  
19    WHICH CAN INCLUDE (I) INTERNET WEBSITE; AND (II) TELEPHONE VIA A  
20    TOLL-FREE NUMBER; (E) ALLOW FOR THE SHARING OF COMPLAINTS WITH (I) THE  
21    EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE THE SUBJECTS OF THE COMPLAINTS, (II)  
22    THE COMMISSIONER, AND (III) AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF FACULTY AND  
23    STUDENTS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

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

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1 3. PRIVACY. COMPLAINTS SHARED SHALL BE ANONYMIZED, UNLESS THE  
2 COMPLAINANT GIVES PERMISSION TO THE CHANCELLOR TO SHARE THE  
3 COMPLAINANT'S IDENTITY.

4 4. PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. THE CHANCELLOR SHALL  
5 SUBMIT A BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE DESCRIBING THE  
6 PROGRESS OF THE STUDENT COMPLAINT TRACKING SYSTEM, THE NATURE AND NUMBER  
7 OF COMPLAINTS, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE  
8 COMPLAINTS.

9 S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6206-a to  
10 read as follows:

11 S 6206-A. STUDENT COMPLAINT TRACKING SYSTEM. 1. ESTABLISHMENT. WITHIN  
12 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE  
13 BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO COLLECT, PROCESS, AND  
14 TRACK COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED TO THE CHANCELLOR BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE  
15 ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE CITY UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. FOR  
16 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A "STUDENT COMPLAINT" SHALL BE DEFINED AS  
17 AN EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY WHICH EXPLICITLY  
18 EXPECTS AN ACTIONABLE RESPONSE OR RESOLUTION THAT IS THE RESULT OF AN  
19 ACTION OR INACTION UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY.

20 2. REQUIREMENTS. THE COMPLAINT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBDIVISION  
21 ONE OF THIS SECTION SHALL: (A) CREATE AN INDIVIDUAL CASE NUMBER FOR EACH  
22 COMPLAINT PROCESSED AND TRACKED IN THE SYSTEM; (B) ALLOW FOR THE REPORT-  
23 ING OF COMPLAINTS, DISAGGREGATED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; (C) ALLOW  
24 FOR THE REPORTING OF COMPLAINTS, DISAGGREGATED BY TOPIC OR SUBJECT  
25 MATTER; (D) ALLOW FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF COMPLAINTS BY VARIOUS METHODS TO  
26 INSURE THE ABILITY OF ALL STUDENTS TO REASONABLY FILE THEIR COMPLAINTS,  
27 WHICH CAN INCLUDE (I) INTERNET WEBSITE; AND (II) TELEPHONE VIA A  
28 TOLL-FREE NUMBER; (E) ALLOW FOR THE SHARING OF COMPLAINTS WITH (I) THE  
29 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE THE SUBJECTS OF THE COMPLAINTS, (II)  
30 THE COMMISSIONER, AND (III) AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF FACULTY AND  
31 STUDENTS OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

32 3. PRIVACY. COMPLAINTS SHARED SHALL BE ANONYMIZED, UNLESS THE  
33 COMPLAINANT GIVES PERMISSION TO THE CHANCELLOR TO SHARE THE  
34 COMPLAINANT'S IDENTITY.

35 4. PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. THE CHANCELLOR SHALL  
36 SUBMIT A BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE DESCRIBING THE  
37 PROGRESS OF THE STUDENT COMPLAINT TRACKING SYSTEM, THE NATURE AND NUMBER  
38 OF COMPLAINTS, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE  
39 COMPLAINTS.

40 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.