

5328

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 22, 2013

Introduced by M. of A. ROZIC -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the public school curriculum for children in kindergarten through grade twelve to include a minimum of two hours per week instruction in civics lessons

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

- 1 Section 1. Section 801-a of the education law, as amended by chapter
2 482 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 801-a. Instruction in civility, citizenship and character education.
4 1. The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades
5 kindergarten through twelve includes a component on civility, citizen-
6 ship and character education. Such component shall instruct students on
7 the principles of honesty, tolerance, RACIAL AND GLOBAL HARMONY,
8 personal responsibility, MORALS, ETHICS, respect for others, observance
9 of laws and rules, courtesy, dignity and other traits which will enhance
10 the quality of their experiences in, and contributions to, the communi-
11 ty. THE INSTRUCTION SHALL EMPHASIZE THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SUCH
12 LESSONS AND THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM IMPACT ON THE STUDENT'S LIFE
13 AND ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS OF IMPLEMENTING THE LESSONS.
14 2. THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TRUSTEES OF THE CITIES AND SCHOOL
15 DISTRICTS OF THE STATE SHALL REQUIRE INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN SUCH
16 MATTERS FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TWO HOURS PER WEEK, BY THE TEACHERS
17 EMPLOYED IN THE SCHOOLS THEREIN, COMMENCING WITH THE TWO THOUSAND THIR-
18 TEEN--TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN SCHOOL YEAR. ALL PUPILS OVER THE AGE OF FIVE
19 YEARS WHO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL RECEIVE SUCH INSTRUCTION.
20 3. The regents shall determine how to incorporate such component in
21 existing curricula and the commissioner shall promulgate any regulations
22 needed to carry out such determination of the regents. For the purposes
23 of this section, "tolerance," "respect for others" and "dignity" shall
24 include awareness and sensitivity to discrimination or harassment and

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

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1 civility in the relations of people of different races, weights,
2 national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental
3 or physical abilities, sexual orientations, genders, and sexes.

4 S 2. Section 801-a of the education law, as amended by chapter 102 of
5 the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

6 S 801-a. Instruction in civility, citizenship and character education.

7 1. The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades
8 kindergarten through twelve includes a component on civility, citizen-
9 ship and character education. Such component shall instruct students on
10 the principles of honesty, tolerance, RACIAL AND GLOBAL HARMONY,
11 personal responsibility, MORALS AND ETHICS, respect for others, with an
12 emphasis on discouraging acts of harassment, bullying, discrimination,
13 observance of laws and rules, courtesy, dignity and other traits which
14 will enhance the quality of their experiences in, and contributions to,
15 the community. THE INSTRUCTION SHALL EMPHASIZE THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION
16 OF SUCH LESSONS AND THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM IMPACT ON THE STUDENT'S
17 LIFE AND ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS OF IMPLEMENTING THE LESSONS.

18 2. THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TRUSTEES OF THE CITIES AND SCHOOL
19 DISTRICTS OF THE STATE SHALL REQUIRE INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN SUCH
20 MATTERS FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TWO HOURS PER WEEK, BY THE TEACHERS
21 EMPLOYED IN THE SCHOOLS THEREIN, COMMENCING WITH THE TWO THOUSAND THIR-
22 TEEN--TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN SCHOOL YEAR. ALL PUPILS OVER THE AGE OF FIVE
23 YEARS WHO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL RECEIVE SUCH INSTRUCTION.

24 3. Such component shall include instruction of safe, responsible use
25 of the internet and electronic communications. The regents shall deter-
26 mine how to incorporate such component in existing curricula and the
27 commissioner shall promulgate any regulations needed to carry out such
28 determination of the regents. For the purposes of this section, "toler-
29 ance," "respect for others" and "dignity" shall include awareness and
30 sensitivity to harassment, bullying, discrimination and civility in the
31 relations of people of different races, weights, national origins,
32 ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abili-
33 ties, sexual orientations, genders, and sexes.

34 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
35 section two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the
36 same manner as section 8 of chapter 102 of the laws of 2012, takes
37 effect.