

8043

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

June 17, 2013

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the state office of
religious and independent schools establishment act

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature recognizes
2 that religious and independent schools play a vital role in the educa-
3 tion of children within the many communities throughout the state and
4 that it is incumbent on the state to continue to support New York
5 students who attend these schools. The legislature further recognizes
6 that while religious and independent school students are included in an
7 array of state and federal programs intended to benefit students in all
8 schools including, but not limited to, instructional materials, school
9 health and safety measures, academic intervention, professional develop-
10 ment and transportation services, the administration of those programs
11 falls most often to the public school districts in which such religious
12 or independent schools are located or the school districts in which such
13 religious and independent school students reside. The legislature also
14 recognizes the substantial administrative burden placed on public school
15 districts charged with administering services for students over whom
16 such districts have little direct responsibility. The legislature
17 further recognizes the inefficiencies that exist in administering
18 programs to benefit students attending religious and independent
19 schools. Therefore, the legislature recognizes the need to create the
20 state office for religious and independent schools for the purpose of
21 providing an efficient and cost-effective means of administering
22 programs and services to benefit students enrolled in religious and
23 independent schools.

24 S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new article 12-B to read
25 as follows:

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

LBD10879-03-3

ARTICLE 12-B

STATE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

SECTION 571. SHORT TITLE.

572. STATE OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

573. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

S 571. SHORT TITLE. THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "STATE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ESTABLISHMENT ACT".

S 572. STATE OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS. 1. THE STATE OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE AND COORDINATE SERVICES AND ADMINISTER STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATIONS AS MAY BE IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER INTENDED FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL IN RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER ACTIVITIES INTENDED FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL IN RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

2. THE DEPARTMENT, ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE, SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT AND RECEIVE ANY GRANTS, AWARDS, APPROPRIATIONS OR OTHER FUNDS AS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE. ALL SUCH FUNDS RECEIVED BY OR OTHERWISE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE HELD IN A DISTINCT ACCOUNT OR ACCOUNTS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.

3. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL UTILIZE A PORTION OF STATE AND/OR FEDERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.

S 573. RULES AND REGULATIONS. THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE ANY RULES OR REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that any rules or regulations necessary for the implementation of this act shall be promulgated and take effect 180 days after such effective date.