S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

March 27, 2014

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to admission into institutions of higher education for pupils receiving home instruction

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 312-a to read as follows:

S 312-A. FAIR PRACTICES FOR HOME SCHOOL APPLICANTS. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL NOT REQUIRE A PUPIL WHO HAS COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS OF A HOME INSTRUCTION EDUCATION OR A NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM, AND WHO HAS SUBMITTED TEST SCORES AND OTHER ADMISSIONS MATERIAL USED BY POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS THAT QUALIFY THE PUPIL FOR ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO OBTAIN OR SUBMIT PROOF OF HAVING OBTAINED A GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE OR ANY ACCREDITED DIPLOMA.

2. A PUPIL WHO HAS COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS OF A HOME INSTRUCTION EDUCATION OR NON-PUBLIC PROGRAM SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT A NOTARIZED TRANSCRIPT, WHICH DEMONSTRATES COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN A HOME INSTRUCTION OR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL SETTING, FOR ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SUCH TRANSCRIPT SHALL BE ACCEPTED AND THE PUPIL ADMITTED ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH ALL OTHER APPLICANTS, REGARDLESS OF EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.

3. THE HOME INSTRUCTION OR NON-PUBLIC PROGRAM GRADUATE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THEIR EARNED POST-SECONDARY DEGREE OR DIPLOMA WHEN THEY HAVE FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POST-SECONDARY DEGREE OR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND SUCH DEGREE CANNOT BE WITHHELD.

4. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" SHALL MEAN ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE REGENTS OR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WHICH PROVIDES A COURSE OF STUDY LEADING TO THE GRANTING OF A POST-SECONDARY DEGREE OR DIPLOMA.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law and shall apply to undergraduate admissions to an institution of higher education for a term or semester that begins on or after such date.

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

LBD07206-01-3