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

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I N S E N A T E

February 26, 2014

Introduced by Sen. MAZIARZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to certain service learning, internship, or independent study programs

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

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 20 to read as follows:

20. THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP, OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS THAT SERVE AS ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND/OR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS. EACH STATE-OPERATED INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY, AS DETERMINED BY ITS PRESIDENT, OFFER SUCH A SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP, OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF (A) A COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPONENT THAT MAY BE COMPLETED THROUGH NO LESS THAN TWENTY HOURS OF VERIFIABLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING ACTIVITIES, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE OR EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VOLUNTEER FIRE OR AMBULANCE SERVICE AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES, AND (B) AN ACADEMIC COMPONENT RELATED TO SUCH VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY THAT MAY BE COMPLETED THROUGH A WRITTEN REPORT OR JOURNAL, OR OTHER WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL BE OPEN TO ANY STUDENT ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE-PRODUCING PROGRAM ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS THAT IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OR AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKER AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION FOURTEEN OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN-K OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW. NO MORE THAN SIX ACADEMIC CREDITS SHALL BE AWARDED TO A STUDENT FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SUCH SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM. IN DEVELOPING THE SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, CONSULT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION

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

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AND CONTROL AND/OR ANY STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE OR THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law; provided however that, effective immediately, the state university trustees are authorized and directed to add, amend and/or repeal any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date.