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I N   S E N A T E

February 26, 2014

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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:

1     Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
2     subdivision 20 to read as follows:  
3     20. THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH  
4     A SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP, OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM FOR  
5     STUDENTS THAT SERVE AS ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND/OR ACTIVE  
6     VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS. EACH STATE-OPERATED INSTITUTION AND COMMU-  
7     NITY COLLEGE MAY, AS DETERMINED BY ITS PRESIDENT, OFFER SUCH A SERVICE  
8     LEARNING, INTERNSHIP, OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS  
9     IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
10    TRUSTEES. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF (A) A COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPO-  
11    NENT THAT MAY BE COMPLETED THROUGH NO LESS THAN TWENTY HOURS OF VERIFI-  
12    ABLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING ACTIVITIES, VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE OR EMERGENCY  
13    RESPONSE ACTIVITIES, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VOLUNTEER FIRE OR  
14    AMBULANCE SERVICE AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES, AND  
15    (B) AN ACADEMIC COMPONENT RELATED TO SUCH VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY THAT MAY BE  
16    COMPLETED THROUGH A WRITTEN REPORT OR JOURNAL, OR OTHER WRITTEN ASSIGN-  
17    MENT AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL  
18    BE OPEN TO ANY STUDENT ENROLLED IN AN ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE  
19    DEGREE-PRODUCING PROGRAM ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS THAT IS AN  
20    ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION  
21    TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OR AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
22    AMBULANCE WORKER AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION FOURTEEN OF SECTION TWO  
23    HUNDRED NINETEEN-K OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW. NO MORE THAN SIX  
24    ACADEMIC CREDITS SHALL BE AWARDED TO A STUDENT FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION  
25    OF SUCH SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM. IN  
26    DEVELOPING THE SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIP OR INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM  
27    DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, THE STATE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES MAY, IN ITS  
28    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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1 AND CONTROL AND/OR ANY STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS THE INTER-  
2 ESTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE OR THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE.  
3 S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
4 have become a law; provided however that, effective immediately, the  
5 state university trustees are authorized and directed to add, amend  
6 and/or repeal any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
7 this act on its effective date.