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I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 20, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. CRESPO, SEPULVEDA, RODRIGUEZ, RAMOS, DAVILA,  
ARROYO, RIVERA, MOYA, DILAN, PICHARDO -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring teachers  
colleges to provide a course of instruction in mental health first aid

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

1     Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
2     subdivision 55 to read as follows:  
3     55. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE RULES AND REGU-  
4     LATIONS REQUIRING EVERY COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS OR TEACHERS COLLEGE WITHIN  
5     THE STATE TO PROVIDE A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID  
6     TO EACH STUDENT PRIOR TO SUCH STUDENT'S GRADUATION THEREFROM WITH A  
7     DEGREE IN TEACHING OR EDUCATION.  
8     B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID"  
9     MEANS THE RECOGNITION OF COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE  
10    DISORDERS, THE SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, AND THE INITI-  
11    ATION OF TIMELY REFERRAL OF APPROPRIATE STUDENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND  
12    CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY RESOURCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.  
13    S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
14    have become a law.

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

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