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

January 20, 2016

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 ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 55 to read as follows:

55. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE RULES AND REGULATIONS REQUIRING EVERY COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS OR TEACHERS COLLEGE WITHIN THE STATE TO PROVIDE A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TO EACH STUDENT PRIOR TO SUCH STUDENT'S GRADUATION THEREFROM WITH A DEGREE IN TEACHING OR EDUCATION.

B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID" MEANS THE RECOGNITION OF COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE DISORDERS, THE SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, AND THE INITIATION OF TIMELY REFERRAL OF APPROPRIATE STUDENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY RESOURCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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