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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 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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