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I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 16, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. CRESPO, RICHARDSON, SEPULVEDA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to mandatory continuing education for teachers relating to mental health issues

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph a of subdivision 2 of section 3006-a of the  
2     education law, as added by section 2 of subpart C of part EE of chapter  
3     56 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:  
4     a. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after  
5     July first, two thousand sixteen, an applicant for registration shall  
6     successfully complete a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing  
7     teacher and leader education, as defined by the commissioner. SUCH  
8     CONTINUING TEACHER AND LEADER EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST TWICE  
9     DURING THE FIVE-YEAR REGISTRATION PERIOD, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, CONTIN-  
10    UING EDUCATION COURSES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MENTAL  
11    HEALTH. SUCH TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE DE-ESCA-  
12    LATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, AND IDENTIFYING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS, INCLUD-  
13    ING THE EARLY STAGES, OF MENTAL ILLNESSES AND SITUATIONS THAT MAY NECES-  
14    SITATE TIMELY NOTIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE SCHOOL OFFICIALS. The  
15    department shall issue rigorous standards for courses, programs, and  
16    activities[,] that shall qualify as continuing teacher and leader educa-  
17    tion pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, a peer  
18    review teacher, or a principal acting as an independent trained evalu-  
19    ator, conducting a classroom observation as part of the teacher evalu-  
20    ation system pursuant to section three thousand twelve-d of this article  
21    may credit such time towards his or her continuing teacher and leader  
22    effectiveness requirements.  
23    S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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