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I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 29, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the educational requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 7904 of the education law, as  
2     amended by chapter 460 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     (2) Have satisfactorily completed an approved occupational therapy  
5     curriculum in AT LEAST a baccalaureate or masters program, or [a certifi-  
6     cate program satisfactory to] ITS EQUIVALENT, AS DETERMINED BY the  
7     department [which is substantially equivalent to a baccalaureate degree  
8     program,] in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.  
9     S 2. Subdivision (b) of section 7904-a of the education law, as added  
10    by chapter 470 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:  
11    (b) have received an education as follows: completion of AT LEAST a  
12    two-year associate degree program for occupational therapy assistants  
13    registered by the department or accredited by a national accreditation  
14    agency which is satisfactory to the department, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AS  
15    DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGU-  
16    LATIONS;  
17    S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
18    it shall have become a law; provided, however, that if chapter 470 of  
19    the laws of 2015 shall not have taken effect on or before such effective  
20    date, then section two of this act shall take effect on the same date  
21    and in the same manner as chapter 470 of the laws of 2015 takes effect.

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

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