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

March 21, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. RA, MURRAY, GRAF, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the commissioner of education granting schools variances for alternative assessments

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

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

55. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL GRANT SCHOOLS VARIANCES FOR ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS THAT MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS SPECIFIED IN REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

B. AN "ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT" MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(I) SHALL MEASURE THE STATE LEARNING STANDARDS FOR THE RESPECTIVE CONTENT AREA;

(II) SHALL BE AT LEAST AS RIGOROUS AS THE CORRESPONDING REQUIRED STATE ASSESSMENT;

(III) SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR VALIDITY, RELIABILITY, AND FREEDOM FROM BIAS; AND

(IV) THIS IS TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO: PORTFOLIO-BASED ASSESSMENTS.

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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