S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

5140

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 4, 2015

Introduced by Sen. HAMILTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a mentor for youth program within the department of education

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 141 to read as follows:

S 141. MENTOR FOR YOUTH PROGRAM. 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT A MENTOR FOR YOUTH PROGRAM. THE FOCUS AND GOAL OF SUCH PROGRAM SHALL BE PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND DECREASING THE DROPOUT RATE AMONG MALE AND FEMALE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL EMPHASIZE PROVEN CORE VALUES TO FACILITATE ITS GOALS. SUCH CORE VALUES SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, SELF-DETERMINATION, THE POSITIVE EXPRESSION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANGER, VISIONARY GOAL SETTING AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE THAT THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT HIGH RISK TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENT ACTS OR DROP OUT OF SCHOOL. IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND ANY OTHER AGENCY OF THE STATE THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS NECESSARY, INCORPORATE NONTRADITIONAL AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TEACHING AND MENTORING METHODS THAT HAVE PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN POSITIVELY INFLUENCING SUCH AT-RISK STUDENTS. IN ADDITION, SUCH PROGRAM SHALL INCORPORATE THE USE OF SPORTS, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND THE FINE ARTS TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH DISCIPLINES ARE DEEMED NECESSARY IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF SUCH PROGRAM.

2. THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE THREE YEARS AND FIVE YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION SETTING FORTH THE IMPACT SUCH MENTOR FOR YOUTH PROGRAM HAS HAD ON SUCH HIGH-RISK STUDENTS.

3. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD10573-01-5