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I N   S E N A T E

February 16, 2016

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Introduced by Sen. HAMILTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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 ASSEMBLY, 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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