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

6753

I N S E N A T E

February 16, 2016

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:

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

55. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE RULES AND REGULATIONS REQUIRING EVERY COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS OR TEACHERS COLLEGE WITHIN THE STATE TO PROVIDE A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TO EACH STUDENT PRIOR TO SUCH STUDENT'S GRADUATION THEREFROM WITH A DEGREE IN TEACHING OR EDUCATION.

B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID" MEANS THE RECOGNITION OF COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE DISORDERS, THE SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, AND THE INITIATION OF TIMELY REFERRAL OF APPROPRIATE STUDENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY RESOURCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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