

714--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring courses of instruction to include information on "comfort women"

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

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 and subdivision 3 of  
2     section 801 of the education law, as amended by chapter 574 of the laws  
3     of 1997, are amended to read as follows:  
4     In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obli-  
5     gation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual  
6     qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of  
7     citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the  
8     State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism,  
9     citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the  
10    study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom  
11    trail and underground railroad), the Holocaust, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
12    DURING PERIODS OF ARMED CONFLICT (INCLUDING THE COMFORT WOMEN OF THE  
13    SECOND WORLD WAR), and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850,  
14    to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state. The  
15    boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school  
16    districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such  
17    courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils  
18    attending such schools, over the age of eight years, shall attend upon  
19    such instruction.  
20    3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such  
21    courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights

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

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1 issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of  
2 genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground rail-  
3 road), the Holocaust, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING PERIODS OF ARMED  
4 CONFLICT (INCLUDING THE COMFORT WOMEN OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR), and the  
5 mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, and in the history, mean-  
6 ing, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of  
7 the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independ-  
8 ence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments ther-  
9 eto, and the period of instruction in each of the grades in such  
10 subjects. They shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such  
11 instruction and for such other matters as are required for carrying into  
12 effect the objects and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall  
13 be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be  
14 inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects.  
15 The commissioner may, in his discretion, cause all or a portion of the  
16 public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be with-  
17 held for failure of the school authorities of such district or city to  
18 provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon such  
19 instruction, as herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the  
20 rules of the regents adopted as herein provided.

21 S 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.