

9148

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 29, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. RICHARDSON -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating mandatory
continuing education for teachers relating to mental health issues

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3001-e
2 to read as follows:

3 S 3001-E. MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS; MENTAL HEALTH
4 ISSUES. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER
5 OF HEALTH AND THE COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH, CREATE AND ADMINISTER A
6 MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE FOR TEACHERS RELATING TO MENTAL
7 HEALTH ISSUES. SUCH COMMISSIONERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY DETERMI-
8 NATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH EDUCATION COURSE.

9 2. EVERY TEACHER QUALIFIED TO TEACH PURSUANT TO SECTION THREE THOUSAND
10 ONE OF THIS ARTICLE, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MANDATORY
11 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. TEACHERS WHO DO NOT
12 SATISFY THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT TEACH
13 UNTIL THEY HAVE MET SUCH REQUIREMENTS AND HAVE BEEN ISSUED A CERTIFICATE
14 OF COMPLETION.

15 3. THE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL TRAIN TEACHERS TO ACCOMPLISH
16 SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNS AND
17 SYMPTOMS OF MENTAL ILLNESS, AND TIMELY REFERRAL TO MENTAL HEALTH
18 SERVICES, THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPING MENTAL DISORDERS. THE PROGRAM
19 SHALL ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR TEACHERS TO ASSIST
20 STUDENTS IN CRISIS TO CONNECT WITH APPROPRIATE LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE
21 SERVICES, TRAINING ON MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE LOCATION OF
22 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS IN THE STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND
23 TRAINING ON ACTIONS PLANS AND PROTOCOLS FOR REFERRAL TO SUCH RESOURCES.

24 4. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO TEACHERS DURING EVERY
25 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, HOWEVER TEACHERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO
26 ONLY ATTEND ANNUALLY, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE ISSUED A REGISTRATION
27 CERTIFICATE UPON COMPLETION. TEACHERS SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DOCUMENTA-
28 TION OF COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND
29 SHALL PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT.

30 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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