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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

February 16, 2016

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to 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:

Section 1. Paragraph a of subdivision 2 of section 3006-a of the education law, as added by section 2 of subpart C of part EE of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

a. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after July first, two thousand sixteen, an applicant for registration shall successfully complete a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing teacher and leader education, as defined by the commissioner. SUCH CONTINUING TEACHER AND LEADER EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST TWICE DURING THE FIVE-YEAR REGISTRATION PERIOD, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH. SUCH TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, AND IDENTIFYING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING THE EARLY STAGES, OF MENTAL ILLNESSES AND SITUATIONS THAT MAY NECESSITATE TIMELY NOTIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE SCHOOL OFFICIALS. The department shall issue rigorous standards for courses, programs, and activities[,] that shall qualify as continuing teacher and leader education pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, a peer review teacher, or a principal acting as an independent trained evaluator, conducting a classroom observation as part of the teacher evaluation system pursuant to section three thousand twelve-d of this article may credit such time towards his or her continuing teacher and leader effectiveness requirements.

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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