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

2621

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 26, 2015

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT directing the commissioner of education for the state of New York to revamp the structure of school districts statewide creating one school district per county; and to repeal various provisions of the education law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration. The legislature hereby finds and declares that New York state spends more money per student than any other state in the nation, but ranks thirty-ninth in high school graduation rates. Only seventy-three percent of New York's students graduate from high school and only thirty-seven percent are college ready. The legislature finds that New York students are not adequately prepared to compete in the global economy and that changes must be made to the education system in order to reverse these statistics and prepare students to compete in the global economy. The legislature also finds and declares that New York has struggled for several decades with the ongoing process of reorganizing our school district system in a way that provides a solution to the negative effects of declining school enrollment, broadens the scope of program offerings, facilitates optimum class scheduling, increases professional resources, and alleviates heavy tax burdens. The legislature therefore directs the commissioner of education to reorganize the school districts in a manner that adequately addresses the shortcomings of the current education system and prepares each and every student to excel in today's global economy.

S 2. The commissioner of the New York state department of education shall establish and implement a new school district system statewide consisting of one school district per county in each of the state's sixty-two counties. The resulting sixty-two school districts shall

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

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service only the needs of students residing in such county. Provided, however, that any school district located in a city with a population of one million or more shall be exempt from the provisions of this act.

S 3. Within one year of the effective date of this act the commissioner of the New York state department of education shall submit a report proposing implementing legislation to effect and fund the consolidation of school districts as proposed in this act. Such report shall be provided to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the assembly minority leader, the senate minority leader and the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and assembly committees on education.

S 4. Article 33 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 5. Article 35 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 6. Article 37 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 7. Article 39 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 8. Article 51 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 9. Article 52 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 10. Article 53 of title II of the education law is REPEALED.

S 11. This act shall take effect on the three hundred sixty-fifth day after it shall have become a law.