STATE OF NEW YORK

2772

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 17, 2017

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- 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 granting academic credit at state operated institutions of the state university of New York and the senior colleges of the city university of New York to volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers and volunteer emergency medical technicians

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 350 of the education law is amended by adding three new subdivisions 14, 15 and 16 to read as follows:

14. "Volunteer firefighter" shall have the same meaning as subdivision one of section three of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law.

15. "Volunteer ambulance worker" shall have the same meaning as subdivision one of section three of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law.

16. "Volunteer emergency medical technician" shall have the same meaning as subdivision six of section three thousand one of the public health law but shall only apply to those workers who are volunteers.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 362 to read as follows:

§ 362. Course credit for volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers and volunteer emergency medical technicians. 1. Every volunteer firefighter, volunteer ambulance worker and volunteer emergency medical technician, as defined in section three hundred fifty of this article, who is enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis as an undergraduate student in good standing at an institution within the state university system shall, upon application, be granted up to six academic credits per year and thirty credits in the aggregate towards his or her degree for completion of courses that were part of such person's training if the completed courses meet the standards of the American council on

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

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education or its equivalent for the awarding of academic credits. No fee, tuition or other charge shall be assessed against a volunteer firefighter, volunteer ambulance worker and volunteer emergency medical technician, who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this section.

2. The board of trustees of the state university shall adopt such procedures as are necessary to fully implement the provisions of this section.

§ 3. Section 6202 of the education law is amended by adding three new subdivisions 10, 11 and 12 to read as follows:

10. The term "volunteer firefighter" shall have the same meaning as subdivision one of section three of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law.

11. The term "volunteer ambulance worker" shall have the same meaning as subdivision one of section three of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law.

12. The term "volunteer emergency medical technician" shall have the same meaning as subdivision six of section three thousand one of the public health law but shall only apply to those workers who are volunteers.

§ 4. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6217 to read as follows:

§ 6217. Course credit for volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers and volunteer emergency medical technicians. 1. Every volunteer firefighter, volunteer ambulance worker and volunteer emergency medical technician, as defined in section sixty-two hundred two of this article, who is enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis as an undergraduate student in good standing at an institution within the city university system shall, upon application, be granted up to six academic credits per year and thirty credits in the aggregate towards his or her degree for completion of courses that were part of such person's training if the completed courses meet the standards of the American council on education or its equivalent for the awarding of academic credits. No fee, tuition or other charge shall be assessed against a volunteer firefighter, volunteer ambulance worker and volunteer emergency medical technician, who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this section.

2. The board of trustees of the city university of New York shall adopt such procedures as are necessary to fully implement the provisions of this section.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.