

STATE OF NEW YORK

3992

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 1, 2017

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- 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 enacting the "higher education community service act"

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that the American tradition of volunteer community service is
3 essential to the common good and is vital to the success of not-for-
4 profit agencies, institutions and organizations dealing with a vast
5 array of critical social problems. It recognizes growing support for the
6 idea that postsecondary students should receive recognition for substan-
7 tial commitment to volunteer service, and should be given greater
8 encouragement to participate in volunteer community service activities.
9 Volunteers and volunteer programs should be praised for their efforts in
10 helping and serving others, which result in changes in the way the
11 community views young people and in the way young people view their
12 responsibilities to the community.

13 The legislature further declares its desire to promote further inte-
14 gration of community service at institutions of higher education by
15 encouraging student-initiated and student-designated community service
16 projects.

17 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to read
18 as follows:

19 § 319. Higher education community service act. 1. Short title. This
20 section shall be known and may be cited as the "higher education commu-
21 nity service act".

22 2. Establishment of higher education community service act. There is
23 hereby established a higher education community service act for the
24 purpose of promoting and recognizing volunteer service involvement by

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

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1 students in higher education. Activities conducted under the higher
2 education community service act shall include:

3 a. a campus based screening process to identify and nominate success-
4 ful and promising community service projects and initiatives for recog-
5 nitition;

6 b. identification of existing quality community service programs,
7 projects and initiatives involving postsecondary students that produce a
8 sense of social responsibility and commitment to the community;

9 c. incentives for institutions of higher education, students and other
10 members of the college community to participate in long term community
11 service programs;

12 d. encouragement of institutions to formulate a systematic process to
13 disseminate information concerning prospective volunteer projects to the
14 participants of general volunteer programs on or off campus;

15 e. establishment of a foundation to receive private funds to be used
16 to promote a wide variety of service related projects. Private funds
17 shall include, but not be limited to donations, grants and fundraisers;
18 and

19 f. establishment of a three-year program of implementation, including
20 pilot programs and ongoing review and evaluation.

21 3. Establishment of volunteer connections. The commissioner, in
22 consultation with the chancellor of the state university, the chancellor
23 of the city university of New York and the president of the commission
24 on independent colleges and universities shall develop a program to
25 establish effective volunteer connections between institutions of higher
26 education and their respective communities.

27 4. Council for higher education community service. a. A council for
28 higher education community service shall be established within the
29 department for the purpose of conducting activities pursuant to this
30 section. The council shall be composed of eleven members, one of whom
31 shall be the commissioner, ex officio, and ten of whom shall be
32 appointed by the governor: two on the recommendation of the temporary
33 president of the senate, two on the recommendation of the speaker of the
34 assembly, one on the recommendation of the minority leader of the
35 senate, and one on the recommendation of the minority leader of the
36 assembly. Such members shall include representatives of the state
37 university, city university of New York, the independent colleges and
38 universities of New York and the New York campus compact. Two of the
39 council members shall be students, selected by the governor. The coun-
40 cil shall select from among its appointed members a chair and vice chair
41 who shall serve in office for terms of one year and who shall be eligi-
42 ble for reelection for successive terms.

43 b. The council shall oversee the creation of a statewide postsecondary
44 community service center to disseminate information regarding existing
45 volunteer activities, make volunteer connections between students and
46 the communities, integrate public and community service into the curric-
47 ulum, provide guidance and coordination, monitor and evaluate volunteer
48 programs and activities and promote the continuation of public and
49 community service.

50 c. The council shall meet at least four times each year. Members of
51 the council shall receive no compensation for their services but shall
52 be reimbursed by the higher education community service foundation for
53 reasonable expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in the
54 performance of their duties pursuant to this section.

55 d. The council shall report by September first each year to the gover-
56 nor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assem-

1 bly on the progress of implementation of this section, with recommenda-
2 tions for future activities.

3 5. Petitioning by council. The council shall, within ninety days of
4 its appointment, petition the regents to incorporate as a private, not-
5 for-profit education corporation under this chapter, the New York foun-
6 ation for higher education community service, to receive funds to be
7 used as requested by the council to support and administer activities
8 authorized in this section, and other projects that encourage and assist
9 community service activities.

10 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of September next
11 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.