

STATE OF NEW YORK

1472

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2017

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring courses of instruction to include information on "comfort women"

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

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 and subdivision 3 of
2 section 801 of the education law, as amended by chapter 574 of the laws
3 of 1997, are amended to read as follows:

4 In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obli-
5 gation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual
6 qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of
7 citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the
8 State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism,
9 citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the
10 study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom
11 trail and underground railroad), the Holocaust, violence against women
12 during periods of armed conflict (including the comfort women of the
13 second world war), and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850,
14 to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state. The
15 boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school
16 districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such
17 courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils
18 attending such schools, over the age of eight years, shall attend upon
19 such instruction.

20 3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such
21 courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights
22 issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of
23 genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground rail-
24 road), the Holocaust, violence against women during periods of armed
25 conflict (including the comfort women of the second world war), and the

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

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1 mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, and in the history, mean-
2 ing, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of
3 the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independ-
4 ence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments ther-
5 eto, and the period of instruction in each of the grades in such
6 subjects. They shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such
7 instruction and for such other matters as are required for carrying into
8 effect the objects and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall
9 be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be
10 inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects.
11 The commissioner may, in his or her discretion, cause all or a portion
12 of the public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be
13 withheld for failure of the school authorities of such district or city
14 to provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon
15 such instruction, as herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with
16 the rules of the regents adopted as herein provided.
17 § 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.