STATE OF NEW YORK

5131--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 9, 2017

Introduced by Sens. ROBACH, AVELLA, FUNKE, HELMING, SANDERS, SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to admission into institutions of higher education for pupils receiving home instruction

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 312-a to read as follows:

§ 312-a. Fair practices for home school applicants. 1. The commissioner shall not require a pupil who has completed the requirements of a home instruction education or a non-public school program, and who has submitted test scores and other admissions material used by post-secondary institutions that qualify the pupil for admission to an institution of higher education or an institution regulated by the bureau of proprietary school supervision, to obtain or submit proof of having obtained a general education development certificate or any accredited diploma.

2. A pupil who has completed the requirements of a home instruction education or non-public program shall be required to present a notarized transcript, which demonstrates completion of a high school education in a home instruction or non-public school setting, for admission to an institution of higher education or an institution regulated by the bureau of proprietary school supervision and such transcript shall be accepted and the pupil admitted on an equal basis with all other applicants, regardless of educational background.

3. The home instruction or non-public program graduate shall be eligible to receive their earned post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate when they have fulfilled the requirements of the post-secondary degree or program requirements and such degree or certificate cannot be withheld.

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

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4. For the purposes of this section "institution of higher education" shall mean any institution of higher education recognized and approved by the regents, the university of the state of New York or regulated by the bureau of proprietary school supervision which provides a course of study leading to the granting of a post-secondary degree or diploma or certificate.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law and shall apply to undergraduate admissions to an institution of higher education for a term or semester that begins on or after such date.