

# STATE OF NEW YORK

11139

## IN ASSEMBLY

November 6, 2020

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Reilly) --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to including the Sandy Ground community in the education curriculum; and to amend the public authorities law, in relation to authorizing the dormitory authority to provide financing to the Sandy Ground Historical Museum

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 1 and 3 of section 801 of the education law,  
2 as amended by section 27 of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020,  
3 are amended to read as follows:

4 1. In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and  
5 obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intel-  
6 lectual qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obli-  
7 gations of citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University  
8 of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in  
9 patriotism, citizenship, civic education and values, our shared history  
10 of diversity, the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human  
11 rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity  
12 of genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground rail-  
13 road), Staten Island's Sandy Ground community, the oldest continuously  
14 inhabited free black settlement in the United States, the Holocaust, and  
15 the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, to be maintained and  
16 followed in all the schools of the state. The boards of education and  
17 trustees of the several cities and school districts of the state shall  
18 require instruction to be given in such courses, by the teachers  
19 employed in the schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, over  
20 the age of eight years, shall attend upon such instruction.

21 Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in  
22 private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools over eight  
23 years of age shall attend upon such courses. If such courses are not so  
24 established and maintained in a private school, attendance upon instruc-  
25 tion in such school shall not be deemed substantially equivalent to

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

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1 instruction given to pupils of like age in the public schools of the  
2 city or district in which such pupils reside.

3 3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such  
4 courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, civic education and  
5 values, our shared history of diversity, the role of history of diversity,  
6 the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human rights  
7 issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of  
8 genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground  
9 railroad), Staten Island's Sandy Ground community, the oldest continuously inhabited free black settlement in the United States, the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845  
10 to 1850, and in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the  
11 provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments  
12 thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state  
13 of New York and the amendments thereto, and the period of instruction in  
14 each of the grades in such subjects. They shall adopt rules providing  
15 for attendance upon such instruction and for such other matters as are  
16 required for carrying into effect the objects and purposes of this  
17 section. The commissioner shall be responsible for the enforcement of  
18 such section and shall cause to be inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects. The commissioner may, in his  
19 discretion, cause all or a portion of the public school money to be  
20 apportioned to a district or city to be withheld for failure of the  
21 school authorities of such district or city to provide instruction in  
22 such courses and to compel attendance upon such instruction, as herein  
23 prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the rules of the regents  
24 adopted as herein provided.

25 § 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 1676 of the public  
26 authorities law is amended by adding a new undesignated paragraph to  
27 read as follows:

28 Sandy Ground Historical Museum at 1538 Woodrow Road, Staten Island,  
29 New York for the restoration or replacement of the museum building  
30 located at such address.

31 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 1680 of the public authorities law is  
32 amended by adding a new undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

33 Sandy Ground Historical Museum at 1538 Woodrow Road, Staten Island,  
34 New York for the restoration or replacement of the museum building  
35 located at such address.

36 § 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
37 have become a law, provided however, that section one of this act shall  
38 take effect July 1, 2021.  
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