STATE OF NEW YORK

3493

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 29, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. BARNWELL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring certain school districts add American sign language to their curriculum

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 817 to read as follows:

§ 817. American sign language. 1. Certain schools, as designated by the commissioner under the requirements as stated in subdivision two of this section, shall include American sign language in their curriculum.

2. The commissioner shall determine which schools will integrate American sign language into their respective curriculum based on the following criteria:

a. in a county with a minimum total of fifteen thousand students enrolled full time, at least one school district shall be designated by the commissioner to incorporate American sign language into their curriculum. This school district must have one elementary school, one middle school and one high school within the chosen district.

b. in a county with a minimum total of fifty thousand students enrolled full time, at least two school districts shall be designated by the commissioner to incorporate American sign language into their curriculum in at least one elementary school, one middle school and one high school within each of the chosen districts.

c. in a county with a minimum total of one hundred thousand students enrolled full time, at least three school districts shall be designated by the commissioner to incorporate American sign language into their curriculum in at least one elementary school, one middle school and one high school within each of the chosen districts.

d. in a city with a minimum total of one million students enrolled full time, any school district with a minimum total of seventy-five

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

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students with a hearing disability shall be designated by the commissioner to incorporate American sign language into their curriculum in at least one elementary school, one middle school and one high school within said district.

3. The commissioner may prescribe regulations governing such American sign language courses which shall include instruction in American sign language. Such regulations shall not prescribe a course of study in American sign language which sets forth standards for instruction of a lesser quality than that of any other non-English language.

4. School authorities required to offer such course shall provide the needed facilities, time and place for the instruction set forth herein and shall provide learning aids and curriculum resource materials to support such course of study.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to the school year which commences on or after July first next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. The commissioner of education shall promulgate such regulations as shall be necessary to implement the provisions of this act not later than 30 days after such effective date.