STATE OF NEW YORK

6212

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 10, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring instruction regarding symbols of hate

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds the recent spike in hate crimes across our state and nation as a whole to be highly disturbing and a societal epidemic in need of remedy. As many of our youth are not aware of the hateful connotations behind hakenkreuz and nooses, it is necessary for the legislature to mandate compulsory education in all schools across our great state in regard to the meanings of these two symbols of hate. Requiring students be educated in the significance of these displays of bigotry will go a long way toward fostering a more inclusive and tolerant society for all.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 801-b to read as follows:

§ 801-b. Instruction regarding symbols of hate. The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction for grades six through twelve includes a component on the meaning of the hakenkreuz as the emblem of Nazi Germany, as well as the noose as a symbol of racism and intimidation. The regents shall determine how to incorporate such components into existing curricula, and the commissioner shall promulgate any regulations needed to carry out such determination of the regents.

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

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

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