STATE OF NEW YORK

8344

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

October 20, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the state law, in relation to removing the words "E pluribus unum" from the motto on the arms and flag of the state

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

Section 1. Section 70 of the state law, as amended by section 1 of part U of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

§ 70. Description of the arms of the state and the state flag. The device of arms of this state is hereby declared to be correctly described as follows:

Charge. Azure, in a landscape, the sun in fess, rising in splendor or, behind a range of three mountains, the middle one the highest; in base a ship and sloop under sail, passing and about to meet on a river, bordered below by a grassy shore fringed with shrubs, all proper.

Crest. On a wreath azure and or, an American eagle proper, rising to the dexter from a two-thirds of a globe terrestrial, showing the north Atlantic ocean with outlines of its shores.

Supporters. On a quasi compartment formed by the extension of the scroll.

Dexter. The figure of Liberty proper, her hair disheveled and decorated with pearls, vested azure, sandaled gules, about the waist a cincture or, fringed gules, a mantle of the last depending from the shoulders behind to the feet, in the dexter hand a staff ensigned with a Phrygian cap or, the sinister arm embowed, the hand supporting the shield at the dexter chief point, a royal crown by her sinister foot dejected.

Sinister. The figure of Justice proper, her hair disheveled and decorated with pearls, vested or, about the waist a cincture azure, fringed gules, sandaled and mantled as Liberty, bound about the eyes with a fillet proper, in the dexter hand a straight sword hilted or, erect,

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

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resting on the sinister chief point of the shield, the sinister arm embowed, holding before her her scales proper.

Motto. On a scroll below the shield argent, in sable, [~~two lines. On line one,~~] Excelsior [~~and on line two, E pluribus unum~~].

State flag. The state flag is hereby declared to be blue, charged with the arms of the state in the colors as described in the blazon of this section.

§ 2. (a) Any state flag, object, or printed materials containing the depiction of the former arms of the state may continue to be used until such flag, object, or printed materials' useful life has expired or until the person possessing such flag, object, or printed material replaces it. Such continued use shall not constitute a violation of section seventy-two of the state law.

(b) Any electronic depiction of the arms of the state shall be updated within 60 days of the effective date of this act.

(c) No state agency, local government, or public authority shall be required to replace a flag solely because such flag contains the former arms of the state.

§ 3. The secretary of state shall begin to use the new seal as of the effective date of this act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the department of state is authorized to take any action, including entering into contracts, that is necessary for the timely implementation of this act on its effective date.