STATE OF NEW YORK

1081

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, ADDABBO, KRUEGER, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a model environmental curriculum in all elementary and secondary schools

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. Model environmental curriculum. 1. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish a model environmental curriculum on climate change to be taught in all public elementary and secondary schools. Such model environmental curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the principles and concepts related to the following topics:

a. Air;

b. Climate change;

c. Energy;

d. Environmental justice;

e. Environmental sustainability;

f. Fish and wildlife resources;

g. Forestry;

h. Integrated pest management;

i. Oceans;

j. Pollution prevention;

k. Public health and the environment;

l. Resource conservation, waste reduction, and recycling;

m. Toxics and hazardous waste; and

n. Water.

2. The model environmental curriculum shall be aligned with other course subject standards of instruction as set forth by the department

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

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and be included in the following course subject's standards of instruction, but not be limited to:

a. Science;

b. History;

c. Social studies;

d. Health; and

e. Mathematics.

3. All public elementary and secondary schools shall begin teaching the model environmental curriculum established pursuant to this section in the first school year following certification by the commissioner that such curriculum has been established.

4. a. The commissioner shall develop age-appropriate curriculum resources and technical assistance for schools to provide to students in all elementary and secondary schools to carryout the provisions of this section.

b. The department shall make the model curriculum and model curriculum resources publicly available electronically on the department's internet website.

5. School authorities shall provide the needed facilities, time and place for the instruction set forth in this section and shall provide learning aids and curriculum resource materials which contribute to effective teaching methods and learning in education in regards to the model environmental curriculum.

6. a. The commissioner shall update the model environmental curriculum every four years following the establishment of such curriculum.

b. Such update shall be based on current scientific, technical and social knowledge.

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