STATE OF NEW YORK

126

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sens. KAPLAN, GOUNARDES -- 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 an educational program related to the prevention of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression

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

Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 59 to read as follows:

59. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and subject to an appropriation, the department shall contract with an outside entity who has expertise in the prevention of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression to establish an anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination prevention and education program overseen by such department. The commissioner shall work with such outside entity, to establish and develop an educational program within such department related to the prevention of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in grades kindergarten through twelve. Such program shall be further defined by such commissioner in regulation and shall be designed to educate students, parents and school personnel about the prevention of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Such commissioner, in collaboration with any other stakeholder groups deemed appropriate by such commissioner, shall develop:

a. the anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination prevention and education program prepared by an outside expert organization into

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

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age-appropriate model curriculum resources, including exemplar lesson plans, and best practice instructional resources for students, parents and school personnel designed to prevent anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Such model curriculum, resources, lesson plans and instructional resources shall include but not be limited to guidelines and methods of prevention, indicators and warning signs of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, guidelines and methods to prevent anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression and how to report complaints of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Such model curriculum shall be made available to school boards, school superintendents, their equivalents, and teachers for voluntary implementation in social studies classes and in social studies coursework;

b. instructional tools and materials for students, parents and school personnel, which shall include updated information on how to report incidents of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, with a review of such information to occur periodically, at intervals deemed appropriate by such commissioner; and

c. public availability of all materials related to the anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination prevention and education program on such department's website in Spanish, Creole, Mandarin, Korean, Bengali and any other language predominantly spoken by the population of the state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.