STATE OF NEW YORK

3631

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 30, 2021

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- 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 courses of instruction in patriotism and citizenship and in certain historic documents

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares that exposure of students to primary source documents giving record of American history and heritage should be encouraged. It is important that the integrity of such historical documents be maintained to preclude intentional or unintentional censorship of the writings, documents and records documenting American history and heritage.

§ 2. Section 801 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. The regents shall promulgate rules which shall permit the boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school districts of the state to allow and encourage any teacher or administrator in a public school district of this state to read or post in a public school building, classroom, or event excerpts or portions of the preamble to the state constitution of New York; the declaration of independence; the constitution of the United States; the mayflower compact; the national motto; the national anthem; the pledge of allegiance; the writings, speeches, documents and proclamations of the founding fathers and presidents of the United States; organic documents from the pre-colonial, colonial, revolutionary, federalist, and post-federalist eras; United States supreme court decisions; acts of the United States congress including the published text of the congressional record; and any other primary source or historic document. Such rules shall provide that there be no content based censorship of American history or heritage in this state with reference to these writings, documents, and records.

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

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§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law, except that any rules necessary for the timely implementation of this act on its effective date shall be promulgated on or before such date.