STATE OF NEW YORK

4781

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 11, 2021

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- 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 requiring the commissioner of education to make recommendations to the board of regents relating to adjusting curricula for certain classes to include climate change education

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. a. The commissioner shall make recommendations to the board of regents relating to adjusting curricula for social studies, economics, geography, and government classes in New York schools to include requirements for climate change education.

b. Such instruction requirements shall include, but not be limited to, instruction on:

(i) the social, cultural, and political impacts of climate change;

(ii) the global effects of climate change;

(iii) global efforts to address climate change, including citizen-led activism from around the world;

(iv) the disproportionate impact of climate change on particular communities, including communities of color and New York's Native American communities;

(v) climate denialism; and

(vi) any other instruction or methods of instruction relating to climate change the commissioner deems necessary.

c. Prior to making the recommendations to the board of regents, the commissioner shall seek input from leaders in disadvantaged communities, Native American communities, youth organizations, and the climate justice working group established pursuant to section 75-0111 of the environmental conservation law.

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

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d. No later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this subdivision, the commissioner shall provide a recommendation to the board of regents to either adopt and promulgate appropriate rules and regulations implementing such curricula, or reject the implementation of such curricula. Upon receiving a recommendation from the commissioner, pursuant to this subdivision, the board of regents shall vote to either accept or reject the commissioner's recommendation no later than sixty days after receiving such recommendation.

e. If the board of regents adopts such curricula, the curricula requirement shall take effect no later than the next school year after such curricula have been adopted.

f. If the board of regents rejects such curricula, the commissioner shall provide a report as to the determination of the board to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the chairs of the senate and assembly committees on education providing the reasons for such rejection not later than thirty days after the board of regents rejects such curricula.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.