STATE OF NEW YORK

663

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring regulations directing the state university of New York and the city university of New York to establish courses of study on ethnic studies, women's studies, and social justice

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 208-b to read as follows:

§ 208-b. Courses on ethnic studies, women's studies, and social justice. 1. The commissioner and the board of regents are authorized and directed to establish rules and/or regulations requiring each institution of higher learning in New York state to provide for courses in ethnic studies, women's studies, and social justice in each of its campuses and requiring, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, completion of, at a minimum, one three-credit course in ethnic studies, women's studies, or social justice. Such requirement shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the institution with a baccalaureate degree. Such graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at an institution of higher learning if the student has satisfied either of the following:

(a) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

(b) The student has completed an ethnic studies, women's studies, or social justice course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

2. The commissioner and the board of regents are authorized and directed to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who

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

LBD03761-01-1

complete an ethnic studies, women's studies, or social justice course pursuant to subdivision one of this section. Such core competencies shall be intended to ensure that students of institutions of higher learning in New York acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them comprehend the diversity and social justice history of the United States and of the society in which they live to enable such students to contribute to society as responsible and constructive citizens.

3. For the purposes of this section, "ethnic studies" shall mean an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6204-b to read as follows:

§ 6204-b. Courses on ethnic studies, women's studies, and social justice. 1. The city university is authorized and directed to establish rules and/or regulations requiring each institution of the city university to provide for courses in ethnic studies, women's studies, and social justice in each of its campuses and requiring, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, completion of, at a minimum, one three-credit course in ethnic studies, women's studies, or social justice. Such requirement shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the city university with a baccalaureate degree. Such graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the city university if the student has satisfied either of the following:

(a) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

(b) The student has completed an ethnic studies, women's studies, or social justice course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

2. The city university is authorized and directed to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies, women's studies, or social justice course pursuant to subdivision one of this section. Such core competencies shall be intended to ensure that students of the city university acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them comprehend the diversity and social justice history of the United States and of the society in which they live to enable such students to contribute to society as responsible and constructive citizens.

3. For the purposes of this section, "ethnic studies" shall mean an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.