STATE OF NEW YORK

7670

IN SENATE

January 6, 2022

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- 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 expanding the requirements for teaching humane education to secondary school students and provides for the verification of compliance of such instruction

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 809 of the education law, as amended by chapter 542 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

1. **a.** The officer, board or commission authorized or required to prescribe courses of instruction shall cause instruction to be given in every elementary school under state control or supported wholly or partly by public money of the state, in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty. Such instruction shall be for such period of time during each school year as the board of regents may prescribe and may be joined with work in literature, reading, language, nature study or ethnology. Such weekly instruction may be divided into two or more periods.

b. The officer, board, or commission authorized or required to prescribe courses of instruction shall cause instruction to be given in every secondary school under state control or supported wholly or partly by public money of the state, in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty. Such instruction shall include educating students on the principles of kindness to and respect for animals and observance of laws and rules pertaining to the humane treatment of animals. The commissioner shall determine how to incorporate such instruction in existing curricula and the commissioner shall promulgate any regulations needed to carry out such determination.

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

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c. A school district shall not be entitled to participate in the public school money on account of any school or the attendance at any school subject to the provisions of this section, if the instruction required [~~hereby~~] **pursuant to this section** is not given therein.

§ 2. Section 809 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. Compliance records. The commissioner shall maintain records verifying school compliance with the provisions of this section and shall make such information available to the public, including on its website.

§ 3. 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.