STATE OF NEW YORK

833

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN -- 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 public school curriculum for children in kindergarten through grade twelve to include a minimum of two hours per week instruction in civics lessons

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

Section 1. Section 801-a of the education law, as amended by chapter 102 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

§ 801-a. Instruction in civility, citizenship and character education. **1.** The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades kindergarten through twelve includes a component on civility, citizenship and character education. Such component shall instruct students on the principles of honesty, tolerance, **racial and global harmony, media literacy,** personal responsibility, **morals and ethics,** respect for others, with an emphasis on discouraging acts of harassment, bullying, discrimination, observance of laws and rules, courtesy, dignity and other traits which will enhance the quality of their experiences in, and contributions to, the community. **The instruction shall emphasize the practical application of such lessons and the short-term and long-term impact on the student's life and on the lives of others of implementing the lessons.**

2. The boards of education and trustees of the cities and school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such matters for a minimum period of two hours per week, by the teachers employed in the schools therein, commencing with the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year. All pupils over the age of five years who attend public schools shall receive such instruction.

3. Such component shall include instruction of safe, responsible use of the internet and electronic communications. The regents shall deter-

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

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mine how to incorporate such component in existing curricula and the commissioner shall promulgate any regulations needed to carry out such determination of the regents. For the purposes of this section, "tolerance," "respect for others" and "dignity" shall include awareness and sensitivity to harassment, bullying, discrimination and civility in the relations of people of different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, genders, and sexes.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.