STATE OF NEW YORK

2498

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA, WALSH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a college experience program for students with developmental disabilities

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

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 21 to read as follows:

21. a. No later than one year from the effective date of this subdivision, the state university trustees shall adopt regulations to establish a two-year college experience program for students with developmental disabilities at each state university of New York institution. Each such institution shall offer such program to eligible students in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the state university trustees.

b. Such program shall consist of:

(1) an academic component related to preparing eligible students for practical living and employment and shall include coursework related to such purposes including, but not limited to, courses in cooking, personal finance, health and wellness, interpersonal communications, and internships; and

(2) a housing component related to preparing eligible students for independent living and shall include housing of eligible students in institution-provided housing.

c. To be eligible to enroll in a college experience program, a student shall:

(1) submit to the institution documentation, as determined by the state university trustees, regarding his or her developmental disability and his or her ability to live independently; and

(2) demonstrate to the institution a level of academic proficiency, as determined by the state university trustees.

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

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d. An eligible student may pay for such program through his or her home and community based waiver administered by the office for people with developmental disabilities and/or supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under the federal social security act or through private funding.

e. In developing the college experience program described in this subdivision, the state university trustees shall consult with the office for people with developmental disabilities.

§ 2. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 21 to read as follows:

21. a. No later than one year from the effective date of this subdivision, the city university trustees shall adopt regulations to establish a two-year college experience program for students with developmental disabilities at each city university of New York institution. Each such institution shall offer such program to eligible students in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the city university trustees.

b. Such program shall consist of:

(1) an academic component related to preparing eligible students for practical living and employment and shall include coursework related to such purposes including, but not limited to, courses in cooking, personal finance, health and wellness, interpersonal communications, and internships; and

(2) a housing component related to preparing eligible students for independent living and shall include housing of eligible students in institution-provided housing.

c. To be eligible to enroll in a college experience program, a student shall:

(1) submit to the institution documentation, as determined by the city university trustees, regarding his or her developmental disability and his or her ability to live independently; and

(2) demonstrate to the institution a level of academic proficiency, as determined by the city university trustees.

d. An eligible student may pay for such program through his or her home and community based waiver administered by the office for people with developmental disabilities and/or supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under the federal social security act or through private funding.

e. In developing the college experience program described in this subdivision, the city university trustees shall consult with the office for people with developmental disabilities.

§ 3. Section 6303 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. a. No later than one year from the effective date of this subdivision, the state university trustees shall adopt regulations to establish a two-year college experience program for students with developmental disabilities at each community college. Each community college shall offer such program to eligible students in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the state university trustees.

b. Such program shall consist of:

(i) an academic component related to preparing eligible students for practical living and employment and shall include coursework related to such purposes including, but not limited to, courses in cooking, personal finance, health and wellness, interpersonal communications, and internships; and

(ii) a housing component related to preparing eligible students for independent living and shall include housing of eligible students in community college-provided housing.

c. To be eligible to enroll in a college experience program, a student shall:

(i) submit to the community college documentation, as determined by the state university trustees, regarding his or her developmental disability and his or her ability to live independently; and

(ii) demonstrate to the community college a level of academic proficiency, as determined by the state university trustees.

d. An eligible student may pay for such program through his or her home and community based waiver administered by the office for people with developmental disabilities and/or supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under the federal social security act or through private funding.

e. In developing the college experience program described in this subdivision, the state university trustees shall consult with the office for people with developmental disabilities.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.