STATE OF NEW YORK

6891

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 13, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a service learning, internship or independent study program for students interested in working with individuals with developmental disabilities

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The United States department of justice believes that people with disabilities should live and work in the "most integrated setting" defined as "a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible." In New York state, the office for people with developmental disabilities is mandating that all workshop providers submit a proposal outlining how they will transform the sheltered workshop either into an "integrated business," a business which employs disabled and non-disabled individuals, or how they will assist in creating transition plans for every individual currently employed in the workshop. This bill proposes to create a service learning, internship or independent study program within state-operated institutions and community colleges to allow students seeking careers aiding individuals with developmental disabilities to be given academic credit and practical application at sheltered workshops. In doing this, sheltered workshops will be allowed to change their business models to have individuals with developmental disabilities working directly with individuals without disabilities.

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

21. The state university trustees shall adopt regulations to establish a service learning, internship or independent study program for students that work with individuals with developmental disabilities. Each state-operated institution and community college may, as determined by its president, offer such a service learning, internship or independent

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

LBD10746-01-1

study program to eligible students in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the state university trustees. Such program shall consist of: (a) a work component with verifiable activities related to individuals with developmental disabilities as determined by the state university trustees, and (b) an academic component related to such activity that will be completed through either a written report or journal, or other written assignment as determined by the state university trustees. Such program shall be open to any student enrolled in an associate or baccalaureate degree-producing program on a full-time or part-time basis that is interested in pursuing a career interacting with the individuals with developmental disabilities. No more than six academic credits shall be awarded to a student for successful completion of such service learning, internship or independent study program. In developing the service learning, internship or independent study program described in this subdivision, the state university trustees may, in their discretion, consult with the New York state office for people with developmental disabilities and/or any statewide organization that represents the interests of individuals with developmental disabilities.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the state university trustees are authorized to add, amend and/or repeal any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date.