

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4287

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 3, 2021

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Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- 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 courses of instruction on the constitution of the United States and the federalist papers

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 801 of the education law,  
2 subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 481 of the laws of 1949 and subdivi-  
3 sion 3 as amended by section 27 of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of  
4 2020, are amended and a new subdivision 6 is added to read as follows:

5 2. The regents shall prescribe courses of instruction in the history,  
6 meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution  
7 of the United States, the amendments thereto, the federalist papers, the  
8 declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York  
9 and the amendments thereto, to be maintained and followed in all of the  
10 schools of the state. The boards of education and trustees of the  
11 several cities and school districts of the state shall require instruc-  
12 tion to be given in such courses, by the teachers employed in the  
13 schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, in the eighth and  
14 higher grades, shall attend upon such instruction.

15 Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in  
16 private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools in grades  
17 or classes corresponding to the instruction in the eighth and higher  
18 grades of the public schools shall attend upon such courses. If such  
19 courses are not so established and maintained in a private school,  
20 attendance upon instruction in such school shall not be deemed substan-  
21 tially equivalent to instruction given to pupils in the public schools  
22 of the city or district in which such pupils reside.

23 3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such  
24 courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, civic education and  
25 values, our shared history of diversity, the role of history of diversi-

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

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1 ty, the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human rights  
2 issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of  
3 genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground rail-  
4 road), the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to  
5 1850, and in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the  
6 provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments  
7 thereto, the federalist papers, the declaration of independence, the  
8 constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, and  
9 the period of instruction in each of the grades in such subjects. They  
10 shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such instruction and for  
11 such other matters as are required for carrying into effect the objects  
12 and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall be responsible for  
13 the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be inspected and  
14 supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects. The commissioner  
15 may, in his discretion, cause all or a portion of the public school  
16 money to be apportioned to a district or city to be withheld for failure  
17 of the school authorities of such district or city to provide instruc-  
18 tion in such courses and to compel attendance upon such instruction, as  
19 herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the rules of the  
20 regents adopted as herein provided.

21 6. The regents shall establish and implement a course of instruction  
22 on the history, meaning, significance and effect of the federalist  
23 papers and the provisions of the constitution of the United States and  
24 all amendments thereto. Such course of instruction established pursuant  
25 to this subdivision shall be provided to all pupils in grades nine  
26 through twelve.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding  
28 the date on which it shall have become a law.