STATE OF NEW YORK

5215

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2021

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- 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 instruction in food, agriculture and nutrition

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to read as follows:

§ 804-e. Health education regarding food, agriculture and nutrition. 1. All schools shall include, as an integral part of health education, instruction on food, agriculture and nutrition to promote eating behavior that enhances the health and well-being of the students.

2. Instruction regarding food, agriculture and nutrition shall be included in the health education provided for all elementary school pupils and shall be taught by the regular classroom teachers or by teachers certified to teach health education. Such instruction shall be designed according to the needs and abilities of the pupils at successive grade levels with the purpose of developing desirable health behavior, attitudes and knowledge, as well as self-reliance and problem solving capacity.

3. Instruction regarding food, agriculture and nutrition, in addition to continued health guidance in high schools, shall be an integral part of a required health education course at each level in the secondary school's curriculum. Any such course shall be taught by teachers holding a certificate to teach health. Related courses in the secondary school curriculum shall be taught in a manner supportive of health education regarding food, agriculture and nutrition.

4. The commissioner may prescribe such regulations regarding instruction on food, agriculture and nutrition as the commissioner may deem necessary and desirable for the health and welfare of pupils and the community. The contents may be varied to meet the needs of particular

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

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school districts, or portions thereof, and need not be uniform throughout the state, provided, however, that school districts shall utilize either the curriculum for health education instruction regarding food, agriculture and nutrition prescribed by the commissioner or a course approved by the commissioner in accordance with criteria established by the commissioner.

5. School authorities shall provide the needed facilities, time and place for the instruction set forth in this section and shall provide learning aids and curriculum resource materials which contribute to effective teaching methods and learning in health education regarding food, agriculture and nutrition.

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