

STATE OF NEW YORK

5409

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 4, 2021

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- 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 high school diploma requirements

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

1 Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new
2 subdivision 60 to read as follows:

3 60. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
4 commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to require as a
5 condition of awarding a high school diploma to a student, the parent or
6 guardian of such student or, if the student is eighteen years of age or
7 older or legally emancipated, such student, to comply with one of the
8 following:

9 (i) complete and submit the free application for federal student aid
10 (FAFSA) for such student; or

11 (ii) complete a waiver form promulgated by the department, to be filed
12 with the student's school district indicating that the parent or guardi-
13 an or, if the student is eighteen years of age or older or legally eman-
14 cipated, the student, understands what the FAFSA is and has chosen not
15 to file an application pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of
16 this paragraph.

17 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commis-
18 sioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to require each school
19 district with at least one high school to provide each eligible high
20 school student and, if applicable, his or her parent or guardian any
21 support or assistance necessary for compliance with the rules and regu-
22 lations promulgated pursuant to paragraph a of this subdivision.

23 c. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations requiring
24 each high school to give notice, no less than four times during each
25 school year, with an explanation to each high school senior of the

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

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1 state-sponsored scholarships, financial aid and assistance available to
2 students attending college or post-secondary education.

3 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
4 the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the
5 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary
6 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized
7 to be made and completed on or before such effective date.