STATE OF NEW YORK

6359--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 23, 2021

Introduced by Sens. LIU, COONEY, GOUNARDES, KAVANAGH, STAVISKY, THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring public elementary schools and high schools to provide instruction in Asian American history and civic impact

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 801-b to read as follows:

§ 801-b. Courses of study in Asian American history and civic impact. 1. The board of regents is authorized and directed to establish and develop a course of study in the events of Asian American history. Such course of study shall be required for all students in public elementary school and high school and may be included as part of the history or social studies curriculum of such schools. Instruction shall be provided by the teachers employed in the schools therein. Such instruction shall include, but shall not be limited to, instruction in the following:

a. The history of Asian Americans in New York and the Northeast;

b. The contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the nineteenth century onward;

c. The contributions made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts, humanities and sciences; and

d. The contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social and political development of the United States.

2. The commissioner, shall provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such courses of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of students at successive grade levels in order to provide understanding,

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

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awareness, skills, information and support to aid in the knowledge of Asian American history and civic impact.

3. The regents shall adopt rules providing for attendance of such courses of study and for such other matters as are required for effectuating the purposes of this section. The commissioner shall be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be inspected and supervise the instruction to be given. The commissioner may, in his or her discretion, cause all or a portion of the public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be withheld for non-compliance with the rules of the regents adopted as herein provided and to compel attendance in such instruction, as herein prescribed.

4. The commissioner shall make available to all public elementary and high schools in the state suitable curriculum materials to aid in the instruction of students in Asian American history and civic impact and shall promulgate rules and regulations governing such courses of study.

5. Completion of such courses of study shall constitute an affirmation by students of their commitment to respect the dignity of all races and peoples and to forever eschew every form of discrimination in their lives and careers.

6. A school may meet the requirements of this section through an online course or program.

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