

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1689

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, MAGNARELLI, LUPARDO, KELLES -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, CRUZ, DeSTEFANO, DICKENS, DINOWITZ, EPSTEIN, GLICK, JEAN-PIERRE, McMAHON, REYES, SAYEGH, SMULLEN, WOERNER, ZEBROWSKI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring civic education courses for grades five through twelve

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 817 to  
2 read as follows:

3 § 817. Instruction in civic education. 1. The commissioner shall  
4 establish a curriculum for instruction in civic education in all schools  
5 providing instruction to students in grades five through twelve. Local  
6 boards of education and the chancellor of the board of education of the  
7 city of New York may adopt their own curriculum upon the approval of the  
8 commissioner.

9 2. Such instruction shall include, but shall not be limited to,  
10 instruction on the New York state constitution; federal, state and local  
11 government; civic literacy; methods of public participation; and the  
12 rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Such curriculum shall have  
13 an experiential, simulation, and project-based approach, including but  
14 not limited to, mock trials; moot court; opportunities to identify and  
15 debate issues relative to power, economic status and the common good in  
16 democracy, advocacy, and community organizing; simulation based legisla-  
17 tive hearings; and other role playing exercises that engage students in  
18 the democratic process and that teach them how to be informed civic  
19 actors in their communities.

20 3. The boards of education and trustees of the several cities and  
21 school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in  
22 such course, by the teachers employed in the school therein.

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

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1 4. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations outlining  
2 the training of teachers providing such civic education instruction and  
3 materials to be provided for such instruction. The board of education or  
4 trustees of every school district shall provide appropriate training and  
5 curriculum materials, as promulgated by the commissioner, to such teach-  
6 ers.

7 § 2. This act shall take effect two years after it shall have become a  
8 law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any  
9 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its  
10 effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such  
11 effective date.