

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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3740

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2023

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Introduced by M. of A. DeSTEFANO -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the legislative power  
of the University of the State of New York

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

1 Section 1. Section 207 of the education law is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 § 207. Legislative power. Subject and in conformity to the constitu-  
4 tion and laws of the state, the regents shall exercise legislative func-  
5 tions concerning the educational system of the state, determine its  
6 educational policies, and, except, as to the judicial functions of the  
7 commissioner [~~of education~~], establish rules for carrying into effect  
8 the laws and policies of the state, relating to education, and the func-  
9 tions, powers, duties and trusts conferred or charged upon the universi-  
10 ty and the [~~education~~] department. But no enactment of the regents  
11 shall modify in any degree the freedom of the governing body of any  
12 seminary for the training of priests or clergymen to determine and regu-  
13 late the entire course of religious, doctrinal or theological instruc-  
14 tion to be given in such institution. No rule by which more than a  
15 majority vote shall be required for any specified action by the regents  
16 shall be amended, suspended or repealed by a smaller vote than that  
17 required for action thereunder. Rules or regulations, or amendments or  
18 repeals thereof, adopted or prescribed by the commissioner [~~of educa-~~  
19 ~~tion~~] as provided by law shall not be effective unless and until  
20 approved by the regents, except where authority is conferred by the  
21 regents upon the commissioner [~~of education~~] to adopt, prescribe, amend  
22 or repeal such rules or regulations. Any rule or regulation adopted by  
23 the regents, without the approval of the legislature, which has the  
24 effect of increasing costs to any school district in the state, shall be  
25 prohibited from taking effect until such time that state funding is

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

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appropriated to all school districts affected by the rule or regulation, covering all expenses related to the new rule or regulation. The board may use any savings effectuated by the repeal or adoption of any current rule or regulation to offset the cost associated with any new mandate adopted by the board. Provided however, a new mandate may be imposed, without legislative approval, and without state appropriation if:

(a) The mandate is provided at the option of the school district under a regulation or rule that is permissive rather than mandatory;

(b) The mandate is required by Federal law or regulation and goes no further than meeting the minimum standard as required by the Federal law or regulation.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall also apply to any and all rules or regulations adopted after such effective date. This act shall further apply to any regulation adopted by the board of regents prior to the effective date of this act, but not yet fully implemented or effective.