STATE OF NEW YORK

4942--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST, TAYLOR, DARLING, HYNDMAN, LEVENBERG, SILLITTI, MAHER, SIMON, RAGA, OTIS, McDONALD, CHANDLER-WATERMAN, CLARK, PRETLOW, DE LOS SANTOS, TAPIA, ALVAREZ, GIBBS, REYES, SEPTIMO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing policies for the awarding of posthumous degrees

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Melquain Jatelle Anderson's (Mel's) Law".

§ 2. Subdivision 2 of section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph f-2 to read as follows:

f-2. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the state university of New York board of trustees shall establish a policy authorizing state-operated institutions within the state university system to grant posthumous degrees to enrolled matriculated students whose death occurs prior to graduation. Such policy shall provide that, upon terms set in the policy, any remaining credit requirements shall be waived for any student who dies and who otherwise would have been eligible for graduation had they been able to complete their academic career.

§ 3. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 22 to read as follows:

22. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the board of trustees shall establish a policy authorizing institutions within the city university of New York system to grant posthumous degrees to enrolled matriculated students whose death occurs prior to graduation. Such policy shall provide that, upon terms set in the policy, any remaining credit requirements shall be waived for any student

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

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who dies and who otherwise would have been eligible for graduation had they been able to complete their academic career.

§ 4. Section 6306 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 12 to read as follows:

12. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the board of trustees of each community college shall establish a policy authorizing each such community college to grant posthumous degrees to enrolled matriculated students whose death occurs prior to graduation. Such policy shall provide that, upon terms set in the policy, any remaining credit requirements shall be waived for any student who dies and who otherwise would have been eligible for graduation had they been able to complete their academic career.

§ 5. Such posthumous degrees shall not be counted in the conferred degrees during the accreditation process or negatively impact a school's standing during the accreditation process.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.