STATE OF NEW YORK

8346

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 13, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing an experiential learning degree requirement in the state university of New York and the city university of New York

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. Experiential learning encompasses service-learning activities, paid or unpaid internships, research projects, and other programs that allow students to develop work experience and practical skills necessary for life after college. Students who participate in internships, for example, are 15% less likely to be unemployed in the first years after graduation and earn 6% more than students who did not participate in internships. Despite the proven benefits of experiential learning, not all students have access to these programs, and students from disadvantaged backgrounds are the most likely to miss out. This legislation is necessary to ensure that all students at the state university of New York and the city university of New York are able to participate in experiential learning, enhancing their education and preparing them for careers after college.

§ 2. Subdivision 2 of section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph f-3 to read as follows:

f-3. (1) Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the state university of New York board of trustees shall develop a plan for requiring that all students complete an approved experiential or applied learning activity, as defined in paragraph f-1 of this subdivision, as a requirement for all degree programs.

(2) Such plan shall:

(i) define approved experiential or applied learning activities;

(ii) define methods of faculty oversight and assessment;

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

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(iii) provide for the implementation of an experiential learning degree requirement in all degree programs in the state university of New York by no later than January first, two thousand twenty-seven.

(3) Such plan may, if deemed necessary by the board of trustees, include a waiver process through which a student can request an exemption from the experiential learning degree requirement due to demonstrated financial hardship or extraordinary circumstances.

(4) Within one year of the effective date of this paragraph, the board of trustees shall submit a written report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, detailing the plan established pursuant to this paragraph.

§ 3. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 18-a to read as follows:

18-a. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the city university of New York board of trustees shall develop a plan for requiring that all students complete an approved experiential or applied learning activity, as defined in subdivision eighteen of this section, as a requirement for all degree programs.

b. Such plan shall:

(i) define approved experiential or applied learning activities;

(ii) define methods of faculty oversight and assessment;

(iii) provide for the implementation of an experiential learning degree requirement in all degree programs in the city university of New York by no later than January first, two thousand twenty-seven.

c. Such plan may, if deemed necessary by the board of trustees, include a waiver process through which a student can request an exemption from the experiential learning degree requirement due to demonstrated financial hardship or extraordinary circumstances.

d. Within one year of the effective date of this subdivision, the board of trustees shall submit a written report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, detailing the plan established pursuant to this subdivision.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.