STATE OF NEW YORK

9701

IN ASSEMBLY

April 3, 2024

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to courses of study in consumer awareness and financial education

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 814-a to read as follows:

§ 814-a. Courses of study in consumer awareness and financial education. 1. Any school district in the state shall provide, to pupils in grades nine through twelve, one full unit of instruction designed to promote consumer awareness and financial education.

2. The commissioner shall provide technical assistance to receive a course or full unit of instruction in consumer awareness and financial education.

3. The requirements of this section may be fulfilled through the finance unit of the required high school economics or home economics course or the continuation of financial management courses currently being taught in public secondary schools.

4. The board of education or trustees of the school district is charged with developing and maintaining a consumer awareness and financial education program for secondary school pupils that shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in the following:

a. setting financial goals and developing a budget;

b. understanding basic banking services such as checking accounts, savings accounts and certificates of deposit;

c. understanding the consumer impact and risks associated with check cashing and other tools available to consumers for immediate access to funds;

d. understanding various investment tools and risks including but not limited to college savings plans, mutual funds, insurance policies, the stock market and other investment types;

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

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e. understanding insurance products and risks including but not limited to life insurance, auto insurance, health insurance, homeowner and rental insurance;

f. understanding the use and risk associated with credit, borrowing, credit scoring, and credit card debt;

g. how to manage debt, including home, automotive and credit card debt;

h. how to understand and calculate interest rates;

i. how to understand retirement planning options and risks including but not limited to deferred compensation, social security, IRA, ROTH IRA and other retirement planning options; and

j. a review of state agencies and laws to assist consumers in banking and consumer transactions.

5. The commissioner shall provide assistance for the development of curricula for such courses of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of pupils in order to provide consumer awareness and financial education, skills, information and support.

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.