STATE OF NEW YORK

5355--A

Cal. No. 809

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 2, 2023

Introduced by Sens. BRISPORT, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

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 and community colleges within the state university 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 senior colleges and community colleges within the city university of New York to grant posthumous degrees to enrolled matriculated students whose death occurs prior to graduation. Such policy shall provide that, upon terms set in

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

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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.

§ 4. 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.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.