STATE OF NEW YORK

851

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring climate change and sustainability education in elementary and high schools

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 817 to read as follows:

§ 817. Comprehensive climate change and sustainability education. 1. The commissioner shall create and establish a comprehensive and accurate climate change and sustainability curriculum which shall be taught in grades kindergarten through twelve in all public and charter schools. Such curriculum shall include instruction on how human activities cause climate change, the effects of climate change, the dangers associated with climate change and preventative measures that can be taken to alleviate the impacts of climate change.

2. The chancellor of the New York city school system, or a board of education may adopt their own curriculum upon approval of the commissioner, provided, however, that the commissioner shall not approve any curriculum which does not substantially comply with the curriculum created pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

3. Schools shall begin teaching the curriculum established pursuant to this section in the first school year following certification by the commissioner that such curriculum has been established.

4. School authorities shall provide the needed facilities, time and place for the instruction set forth in this section and shall provide learning aids and curriculum resource materials which contribute to effective teaching methods and learning in education regarding climate change and sustainability.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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