

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5355

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 2, 2023

Introduced by Sen. BRISPORT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

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:

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

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

5 f-2. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the  
6 state university of New York board of trustees shall establish a policy  
7 authorizing state-operated institutions within the state university  
8 system to grant posthumous degrees to students whose death occurs prior  
9 to graduation. Such policy shall provide that any remaining credit  
10 requirements shall be waived for any student who is killed and who  
11 otherwise would have been eligible for graduation had they been able to  
12 complete their academic career.

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

15 22. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the  
16 board of trustees shall establish a policy authorizing institutions  
17 within the city university of New York system to grant posthumous  
18 degrees to students whose death occurs prior to graduation. Such policy  
19 shall provide that any remaining credit requirements shall be waived for  
20 any student who is killed and who otherwise would have been eligible for  
21 graduation had they been able to complete their academic career.

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

25 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD04553-01-3