

STATE OF NEW YORK

7407

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to permitting public schools to utilize or display indigenous names

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

Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 63 to read as follows:

63. (a) As used in this subdivision, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(i) "indigenous names" means a name that depicts or refers to indigenous persons, tribes, nations, individuals, customs, symbols or traditions, including actual or stereotypical aspects of indigenous cultures, used to represent a public school's extracurricular activities, including but not limited to such school's sports teams.

(ii) "indigenous logos or mascots" means a symbol or image that depicts or refers to indigenous persons, tribes, nations, individuals, customs, symbols, or traditions, including actual or stereotypical aspects of indigenous cultures, used to represent a public school's extracurricular activities, including but not limited to such school's sports teams.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations to allow public schools to utilize or display an indigenous name and shall repeal any rule or regulation inconsistent with allowing such use. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit the commissioner from adopting any rule or regulation prohibiting public schools from utilizing or displaying an indigenous logo or mascot other than for purposes of classroom instruction.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD11149-01-5