STATE OF NEW YORK

6705

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 20, 2025

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- 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 college admission and financial aid for students who have received a high school diploma from certain online high school programs

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

Section 1. Paragraph f of subdivision 4 of section 661 of the education law, as amended by section 1 of part Z of chapter 58 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

f. For students who first receive aid pursuant to this chapter in academic year two thousand seven--two thousand eight or thereafter, must have (i) a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education from a state within the United States; or (ii) the recognized equivalent of such certificate; or (iii) received a passing score on a federally approved ability to benefit test that has been identified by the board of regents as satisfying the eligibility requirements of this section and has been independently administered and evaluated as defined by the commissioner; **or (iv) received a high school diploma, or the equivalent thereof, from an online high school program located within the United States that is accredited in accordance with paragraph four of appendix three hundred two of the Job Corps Policy and Requirements Handbook (Guidelines for the Ongoing Quality Monitoring of Job Corps High School Diploma (HSD) Programs), as amended from time to time;**

§ 2. Paragraph h of subdivision 2 of section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 11 to read as follows:

(11) Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, such regulations shall provide for eligibility of admission for students who have completed an online high school program which (i) has in excess of ten thousands students per year nationally complete such program, (ii) is located within the United States, and (iii) is accredited in accord-

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

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ance with paragraph four of appendix three hundred two of the Job Corps Policy and Requirements Handbook (Guidelines for the Ongoing Quality Monitoring of Job Corps High School Diploma (HSD) Programs), as amended from time to time;

§ 3. Section 6306 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3-b to read as follows:

3-b. The board of trustees of each community college, and those provided for in the city of New York by subdivision three of this section, shall adopt a policy for admission of students who have completed an online high school program located within the United States consistent with the provisions of subparagraph eleven of paragraph h of subdivision two of section three hundred fifty-five of this chapter.

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

13-a. The board of trustees shall provide standards for admission of students who have completed an online high school program located within the United States consistent with the provisions of subparagraph eleven of paragraph h of subdivision two of section three hundred fifty-five of this chapter.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.