STATE OF NEW YORK

8501

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

September 10, 2025

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to allowing school districts to opt out of observing any state-designated cultural or religious holiday

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

Section 1. Section 3604 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 8-c to read as follows:

8-c. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, school districts may opt out of observing any state-designated cultural or religious holiday when less than ten percent of the school population observes such state-designated cultural or religious holiday. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, school districts should make reasonable accommodations for those students participating in a state-designated cultural or religious holiday, when such state-designated cultural or religious holiday is not officially observed district-wide pursuant to this subdivision. This subdivision does not apply when any cultural or religious holiday is designated by the federal government. School districts may not elect to opt out of any cultural or religious holiday designated by the federal government, for the purposes of this subdivision.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD13740-01-5