STATE OF NEW YORK

4559--B

Cal. No. 456

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 7, 2025

Introduced by Sens. STAVISKY, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, KRUEGER, SKOUFIS, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading -- again amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the appointment of a Title VI coordinator at every college and university in the state

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 6436-a to read as follows:

§ 6436-a. Designation of a Title VI coordinator and duties. 1. Purpose and designation of coordinator. (a) To ensure students are protected from illegal discrimination based on characteristics, as further described in applicable state and federal law, institutions shall engage in proper coordination of these efforts through a centralized process and with a centralized point of contact for all compliance, similar to the role of the Title IX coordinator and their role in the implementation of applicable federal laws, rules and regulations, and state law, including article one hundred twenty-nine-B of this title.

(b) Within ninety days of the effective date of this section, an institution, defined as a college or university chartered by the regents or incorporated by special act of the legislature that maintains a campus in New York state shall designate a Title VI coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal civil rights act of 1964, codified at 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., 34 C.F.R. Part 100, and any other related applicable laws, rules or regulations.

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

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2. Responsibilities of the Title VI coordinator when receiving reports of discrimination or harassment. If the Title VI coordinator receives a report, the Title VI coordinator shall:

(a) offer supportive measures for the student or students making a complaint;

(b) notify any students who report conduct that may reasonably constitute discrimination or harassment under this section and Title VI of the federal civil rights act of 1964, of the institution's policies and/or procedures; and

(c) ensure there is a process for investigation and resolution of complaints consistent with obligations under federal and state law.

3. Developing training to promote equal access and participation. The division of human rights, in coordination with institutions of public and private higher education located within the state, shall develop model training for students and employees to ensure institutional compliance. Such training or institutionally developed equivalents shall be delivered annually to all students and employees commencing with the first full academic year after this section shall take effect, and each academic year thereafter.

4. Notification of policies and procedures. The Title VI coordinator shall notify all students and employees each academic year of the institution's policies and procedures for reporting discrimination and harassment.

(a) Form of notification. The Title VI coordinator shall ensure that the annual notification includes:

(i) the institution's nondiscrimination policy statement;

(ii) website links to all policies and procedures for reporting discrimination and harassment to the institution;

(iii) the contact information of the Title VI coordinator; and

(iv) any other information the Title VI coordinator and the institution deem necessary.

5. Designees. The Title VI coordinator may have a designee or designees to assist in carrying out the functions set forth in this section, and may work with other employees to carry out the functions set forth in this section, provided, however, the Title VI coordinator shall be ultimately responsible for coordinating and overseeing the institution's compliance with this section and with Title VI of the federal civil rights act of 1964.

6. Training for Title VI coordinator and designee or designees. All Title VI coordinators and their designees shall be trained in their duties and responsibilities set forth in this section and Title VI of the federal civil rights act of 1964.

7. Recordkeeping. (a) The Title VI coordinator shall be responsible for appropriate recordkeeping related to any reports and complaints of discrimination and harassment, in accordance with applicable state and federal law, including all records related to assessments of reports, records documenting actions the institution took to meet its obligations, and any records of training attendance and materials.

8. Other duties. The Title VI coordinator may perform other relevant duties as established by the institution.

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year 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.