STATE OF NEW YORK

9595

IN SENATE

March 26, 2026

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- 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 designating the state university of New York college at Geneseo as New York's public honors college

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the state university college at Geneseo has earned national distinction as a premier public liberal arts institution. For decades, it has served an award-winning liberal arts education with proved outcomes of academic rigor and development of critical thinking and leadership skills. The legislature further finds that the state's member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, has formally adopted a mission to be "New York's Public Honors College." It is therefore the intent of this act to codify this mission in statute, ensuring that the college remains a dedicated center for high-ability students and maintains its commitment to academic rigor and an equity-centered honors experience.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding new section 352-b to read as follows:

§ 352-b. New York's public honors college. The state university of New York college at Geneseo shall be designated and known as "New York's public honors college." The primary mission of such public honors college shall be to provide a distinctive and academically rigorous public liberal arts honors education. As New York's public honors college, the institution shall prioritize practices that advance excellence, success, and access.

§ 3. Subdivision 3 of section 352 of the education law, as amended by chapter 13 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

3. The state university shall consist of the four university centers at Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook, **the designated New York's public honors college at Geneseo,** the designated colleges of arts and sciences at Brockport, Buffalo, Cortland, Fredonia, Geneseo, New

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

LBD15152-01-6

Paltz, Old Westbury, Oneonta, Oswego, Plattsburgh, Potsdam and Purchase, empire state college, the agricultural and technical colleges at Alfred, Canton, Cobleskill, Delhi, Farmingdale and Morrisville, downstate medical center, upstate medical center, the college of optometry, the college of environmental science and forestry, maritime college, the college of technology at Utica/Rome, the statutory or contract colleges at Cornell university and Alfred university, and such additional universities, colleges and other institutions, facilities and research centers as have been or hereafter may be acquired, established, operated or contracted to be operated for the state by the state university trustees.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.