

CHAPTER 481

No. 490

Int. 488

IN SENATE

January 18, 1949

Introduced by Mr. DALESSANDRO—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Public Education

AN ACT

To amend the education law, in relation to requiring the regents to prescribe courses of instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the constitutions of the United States and of the state of New York and the amendments thereto and in the declaration of independence

Notes

Part of bill will be printed in the next issue of the Laws of the State of New York.

Jurats and Enacting Clause

Compared by

a.s., e.h., R.M.B.

APPROVED

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Approved by

MICROFILMED

DATE 4/28/59
NO. OF PRINTED BILLS 2
NO. OF EXPOSURES
EXCLUSIVE OF BILLS 9

State of New York
In Senate

FEB 16 1949

Ordered, That the Clerk deliver the bill entitled:

IN SENATE

No. 490

Int. 488

An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the regents to prescribe courses of instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the constitutions of the United States and the state of New York and the amendments thereto and in the declaration of independence

to the Assembly and request its concurrence in the same.

By order

William S. King,

Clerk.

IN ASSEMBLY

MAR 8 1949

Passed without amendments

By order of Assembly

Andrey Borkowski

CLERK

Senate Int. 488, Ps. 490, Dalessandro

Citizens Union ~~not~~ opposed.
A mistake for the Legislature to
try to write curriculum.

S 488



PETER J. DALESSANDRO
35TH DISTRICT

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

S 488

March 14, 1949

RECEIVED
MAR 16 1949
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Thomas E. Dewey,
Office of the Governor,
State Capitol,
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Governor Dewey:

I have your communication relative to Senate Bill Int. No. 488. This bill expands the study of important historic documents in our school system. At present the Constitution of the United States is the only document that is required to be studied. Under this bill it is required also that the Declaration of Independence and also our State Constitution and Amendments be studied. I believe that it is important for a more complete understanding of our basic law that these additional documents be studied.

Very truly yours,

Peter J. Dalessandro
Peter J. Dalessandro

PJD/n

BUDGET REPORT ON BILLS

1949

SENATE

Introduced by:

ASSEMBLY

Pr: 490

Mr. Dalessandro

MAR 15 1949

Pr:

Int: 488

Int:

Law..... Education Subject. Requires courses in history and significance of U.S. and N.Y.S. Constitutions and Declaration of Independence.....
Sections of Law..... 801, subdivisions 2 and 3.....

Division of the Budget recommendation on the above bill:

Approve: _____ Veto: _____ No Recommendation: X

Reasons:

No budgetary significance.

Date: March 14, 1949 Examiner: C. H. Foster *B*

Disposition: Chapter No:..... Veto Date:.....

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March 14, 1949

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1949

THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Charles D. Breitell
Counsel to the Governor
State Capitol
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Breitell:

The Public Education Association is wholly opposed to the Dalessandro-Herrick Bill (S.490, A.550) requiring courses on the history and significance of state and federal constitutions.

This Association has long been on record in opposition to curriculum mandates of any kind on the theory that there should be local control of the local school systems. The school should relate as closely as possible to the needs and interests of the community in which it is located. Educational standards are a proper concern of central authorities but extending this control to matters of the curriculum or content of the school program blocks local initiative.

The schools in New York City are already giving adequate attention to the federal Constitution and for the most part deal fairly with the history of New York State. We here hope very much that Governor Dewey will see fit to veto this measure.

Very sincerely yours,

Frederick C. McLaughlin

Frederick C. McLaughlin
Educational Director

FCM:dm

8488

March 16, 1949

Mr. Frederick C. McLaughlin,
Educational Director,
Public Education Association,
Willkie Memorial Building,
20 West 40th Street,
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Your letter of March 14th, concerning
Senate Bill, Introductory Number 488, Printed Number
490, is acknowledged.

Many thanks for your courtesy in giving
me the benefit of your views. Your thoughtfulness
is much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

CDB
DDB:A

8488
MEMORANDUM FOR THE GOVERNOR, IN RELATION TO SENATE BILL
PR. NO. 490, INT. 488, INTRODUCED BY MR DALESSANDRO AND
ENTITLED "AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION LAW, IN RELATION
TO REQUIRING THE REGENTS TO PRESCRIBE COURSES OF INSTRU-
TION IN THE HISTORY, MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE AND EFFECT OF
THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK AND THE AMENDMENTS THERETO AND IN THE DECLAR-
ATION OF INDEPENDENCE".

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1949
COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR

This bill in effect broadens the present requirement
that instruction be given in the Constitution of the
United States by including the Declaration of Independence.
It also broadens the scope by requiring instruction in the
significance and effect of the provisions of the Constitution
and the Declaration of Independence. It should be noted
that the present syllabus, we think, completely covers these
fields and, undoubtedly, on even a broader scale than the
bill specifies. Consequently, the enactment of the measure
would not in any way change the present practice and is not
objectionable in that sense. Of course, The Department has
always taken the position that it is unwise for the Legis-
lature to mandate courses of instruction in the public schools.
The piling up of these mandates will eventually take up the
time of the children to the exclusion of the "basic core" courses.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles A. Brind, Jr.,
Counsel, State Education
Department.

March 16, 1949

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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March 21, 1949

Re: Senate Int. 488, Print 490 - D'Alessandro

To amend the education law, in relation to requiring the regents to prescribe courses of instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the constitutions of the United States and of the state of New York and the amendments thereto and in the declaration of independence.

Your Excellency:

The Board of Education disapproves the above described bill. This bill seeks to extend courses of instruction prescribed by the Regents.

It is the position of the Board of Education that matters of curriculum should not be mandated by the Legislature but should be left to the discretion of local school authorities. Many bills are offered, from time to time, which seek to mandate courses of instruction. The result of such bills is to make the planning of the curriculum unduly burdensome. We feel that the proper course is to leave these matters to the sound discretion of the school authorities, subject to review, when necessary, by the Commissioner of Education.

We, therefore, respectfully recommend that you disapprove this bill.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Clauson Jr.
Andrew G. Clauson, Jr.
President

AGC:B:1

Honorable Thomas E. Dewey
Governor of the State of New York
Capitol
Albany 1, New York