

accordance with the provisions of the contract. The parcel acquired by The People of the State of New York pursuant to this act shall be devoted to reforestation and such other purposes as may be determined by the commissioner of environmental conservation in accordance with the environmental conservation law. Any monies received by the department of environmental conservation as part of this exchange of real property shall be deposited in the environmental protection fund created pursuant to section ninety-two-s of the state finance law.

§ 5. The provisions of this act shall be implemented and carried out only upon the issuance of an order by the public service commission certifying the east pipeline route in case 95-T-0248, application of New York state electric & gas corporation for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need authorizing the construction and operation of the Seneca lake storage project gas transmission facilities.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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## CHAPTER 697

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to instruction on the subjects of human rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850

Became a law October 9, 1996, with the approval of the Governor.  
Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds, recognizes and affirms the importance to pupils of learning to appreciate the sanctity of life and the dignity of the individual. Pupils must develop a respect for each person as a unique individual, and understand the importance of a universal concern for ethics and human rights. Therefore, the legislature recognizes the importance of teaching our youth ethical and moral behavior specifically relating to human rights violations, genocide issues, slavery, the Holocaust, as well as the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850.

§ 2. Subdivisions 1 and 3 of section 801 of the education law, as amended by chapter 390 of the laws of 1994, are amended to read as follows:

1. In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, [and] the Holocaust, *and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850*, to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state. The boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, over the age of eight years, shall attend upon such instruction.

Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools over eight years of age shall attend upon such courses. If such courses are not so established and maintained in a private school, attendance upon instruction in such school shall not be deemed substantially equivalent to instruction given to pupils of like age in the public schools of the city or district in which such pupils reside.

3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study

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

of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, [and] the Holocaust, *and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850*, and in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, and the period of instruction in each of the grades in such subjects. They shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such instruction and for such other matters as are required for carrying into effect the objects and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects. The commissioner may, in his discretion, cause all or a portion of the public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be withheld for failure of the school authorities of such district or city to provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon such instruction, as herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the rules of the regents adopted as herein provided.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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### ~~CHAPTER 698~~

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to transportation contracts

Became a law October 9, 1996, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

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

Section 1. Paragraph a of subdivision 14 of section 305 of the education law, as amended by chapter 497 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

a. All contracts for the transportation of school children, all contracts for mobile instructional units, and all contracts to provide, maintain and operate cafeteria or restaurant service by a private food service management company shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner, who may disapprove a proposed contract if, in his opinion, the best interests of the district will be promoted thereby. [All] *Except as provided in paragraph e of this subdivision, all such contracts involving an annual expenditure in excess of the amount specified for purchase contracts in the bidding requirements of the general municipal law shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, which responsibility shall be determined by the board of education or the trustee of a district, with power hereby vested in the commissioner to reject any or all bids if, in his opinion, the best interests of the district will be promoted thereby and, upon such rejection of all bids, the commissioner shall order the board of education or trustee of the district to seek, obtain and consider new proposals. All proposals for such transportation, mobile instructional units, or cafeteria and restaurant service shall be in such form as the commissioner may prescribe. Advertisement for bids shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers designated by the board of education or trustee of the district having general circulation within the district for such purpose. Such advertisement shall contain a statement of the time when and place where all bids received pursuant to such advertisement will be publicly opened and read either by the school authorities or by a person or persons designated by them. All bids received shall be publicly opened and read at the time and place so specified. At least five days shall elapse between the first publication of such advertisement and the date so specified for the opening and reading of bids. The requirement for competitive bidding shall not apply to an award of a contract for the transportation of pupils, if such award is based on an evaluation of proposals in response to a request for proposals pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivision.* The requirement for competitive bidding shall not apply to annual, biennial, or triennial extensions of a contract nor shall the requirement for competitive bidding apply to quadrennial or quinquennial year extensions of a contract involving either transportation of pupils or mobile instructional units secured *either through competitive bidding or through*