Approved by

EXCLUSIVE OF BILLS

MICROFILMED

## CHAPTER 48/

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

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## 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 'e 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

Passed without amendments
By order of Assembly

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PETER J. DALESSANDRO

THE SENATE STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY

March 14, 1949

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.

PJD/n

Peter J. Dalessandro

Very truly yours.

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## PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

WILLKIE MEMORIAL BUILDING

20 WEST 40th STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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March 14, 1949

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THE CONTENOR

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

Dear Mr. Breitel:

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,

Fired ME Laughlin

Frederick C. McLaughlin Educational Director

PCN:dm

Waroh 16, 1949

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

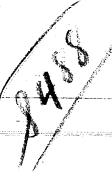
Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

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

me the benefit of your views. Your thoughtfulness is much approximated.

Sincerely yours.

CES DESEA



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 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 DECHARATION OF INDEPENDENCE".

This bill in effect broadens the present requirement MAR 1 7 1949 that instruction be given in the Constitution of the country 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 Legislature 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. Bring, Jr.

March 16, 1949

Counse , State Education Department.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK HO LIVINGSTON STREET

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

> 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.

President

AGC:B:1

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

Albany 1, New York