

2-8

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS DUSZA, FITZPATRICK & SWANICK

RECEIVED
ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
1999 JAN 19 A 9:05

**RE: SUPPORT FOR LABOR STUDIES IN ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, labor unions have played a significant role in the social, political and economic history of our country, and

WHEREAS, throughout time the great forces that have swept the American people into action have been the very forces that have also molded labor, and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has recently adopted into its educational curriculum the teaching of labor history in all of its schools, and

WHEREAS, New York State severely lacks elementary and secondary school curriculum on the labor movement and union history, and

WHEREAS, members of the New York State Assembly have recently introduced legislation (Bill No. A.1404) which would amend the State education curriculum to require elementary and secondary student instruction on the history, structure, activities and role of labor unions in American History, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby support NYS Bill No. A.1404, instituting labor studies as an important component of New York State educational curriculum, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body further calls upon the Assembly to approve Bill No. A01404, the Senate to introduce and adopt similar legislation and Governor Pataki to sign said legislation into law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor George E. Pataki, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, the Western New York delegation to the State Assembly and State Senate, and to the President of the Buffalo AFL-CIO Council.

RAYMOND K. DUSZA

MICHAEL A. FITZPATRICK

CHARLES M. SWANICK

Fiscal Impact: None for Resolution.

STATE OF NEW YORK

1404

1999-2000 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 1999

Introduced by M. of A. TOKASZ, EVE, COLMAN, DINOWITZ, PHEFFER, LOPEZ, HOYT -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, BRENNAN, BRODSKY, COLTON, DESTITO, DIAZ, GLICK, GOTTFRIED, GREENE, HILL, JACOBS, RAMIREZ, ROBACH, SCARBOROUGH, SEMINERIO, TONKO, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to courses of instruction in labor studies

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 809-b
2 to read as follows:

3 S 809-B. INSTRUCTION IN LABOR STUDIES. THE OFFICER, BOARD, OR COMMIS-
4 SION AUTHORIZED OR REQUIRED TO PRESCRIBE INSTRUCTIONAL OUTCOMES FOR
5 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS SHALL CAUSE SUCH INSTRUCTIONAL
6 OUTCOMES TO INCLUDE IN ALL GRADES AND SUBJECTS, AS APPROPRIATE, THE
7 HISTORY, STRUCTURE, ACTIVITIES, AND ROLE OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE AMER-
8 ICAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.

9 S 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of September in the
10 second year next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a
11 law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets { } is old law to be omitted.

LBD02620-01-9

001404

EDUCATION

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION

submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Section 1(e)

- (x) Memo on original draft of bill
- () Memo on amended bill

A1404
ED

BILL NUMBER: Assembly
Senate

SPONSORS: Member(s) of Assembly: Paul A. Tokasz
Senator(s): William T. Stachowski

TITLE OF BILL:

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to courses of instruction in labor studies.

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill would require elementary and secondary schools to teach courses on the role of labor unions in American Society.

JUSTIFICATION:

Recently, the State of Illinois adopted into its curriculum the teaching of labor history in all of its schools. This had been established by a concerted effort of unions led by the Illinois State AFL-CIO. In New York State this venture is being fully supported by the New York State United Auto Workers, Region 9.

Fundamentally, the glorious history of labor is the story of the American people and the great forces which have swept the American people into action have been the very forces that have also molded labor. For labor has never lived in isolation or progressed without allies. Always it has been in the mainstream of American life, always at the crux of American history. Organized labor has been integral in shaping the history of New York State through its interaction in the political and economic systems.

It is very important that at all grades, students learn of the various aspects of labor studies. These studies should be incorporated, integrated, or infused into the curriculum at every level and into every subject "as appropriate." For instance, it is important not to limit the teachers of labor history to American history but recognize that English teachers can incorporate worker literature, poems, plays, etc. and can assign papers, essays, seminar topics and so on that deal with workers and unions. Music teachers can use labor songs to teach the American tradition of protest music and science teachers can incorporate safety and health issues.

This curriculum is severely limited in the schools of New York and this omission by the State Education Department needs to be corrected. This legislation will do just that.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

See A.1968/S.1668 of 1997-98.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect on the first day of September in the second year next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.