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EDUCATION

42 N.J.R. 1433(a)

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Notice of Action on Petition for Rulemaking

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-27 and 28 New Jersey High School Voter Registration Law

Petitioners: New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate, Trenton, New Jersey; Project Vote, Washington, D.C.; and American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey

Take notice that on January 8, 2010, the above petitioners filed a petition with the New Jersey Department of Education for rulemaking requesting that the State Board adopt rules requiring local districts to provide both voter registration services and voter education programs to students annually. The voter registration services shall include distributing to every high school student 17 years or older a voter registration form, instructions on how to complete it and the necessary time to complete it. The voter education programs shall include instruction about the importance of voting, the role of citizens, and voter registration eligibility requirements. In addition, all public and private schools would be required to demonstrate compliance with these mandates, with public schools demonstrating compliance through the NJQSAC process. Schools would also be required to collect and transmit voter registration forms to elections officials or provide students the option to return the forms themselves. A notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the February 16, 2010 New Jersey Register at 42 N.J.R. 595(a).

In its first notice of action, filed with the Office of Administrative Law on March 7, 2010 and published in the New Jersey Register on April 5, 2010 (see 42 N.J.R. 733(a)), the Department determined that the additional time was needed to consider this matter. During the course of its review, the Department of Education has decided that further consideration of this petition is necessary.

In keeping with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a), this second notice of action regarding this petition must be filed with the Office of Administrative Law on or before June 15, 2010. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(b), the petitioner and the agency have agreed in writing that more time is essential to review the results of the agencies review and discuss an appropriate course of action with the State Board of Education. Therefore, this petition will be considered with members of the State Board of Education at the June 16, 2010 monthly public meeting.

A copy of this public notice is being mailed to the petitioners.