Undocumented Immigrants and Higher Education Policy: The Policymaking Environment of New York State

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Between 2005 and 2012, state legislatures introduced over 9,000 measures related to immigrants, and over 1,300 of these were enacted (Turner & Sharry, 2012). These measures have spanned areas such as budgets, education, employment, health, identification (e.g., driver’s license), and law enforcement (National Conference of State Legislatures, n.d.). Since immigration laws are enacted at the federal level, scholars have described such state actions as “contesting the boundaries of federalism” (Reich & Barth, 2012) and “the state-federal battleground” (Lee, 2012). One public policy area where this

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