

5695--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 3, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to changing the state fiscal year from the first of April to the first of June and requiring revisions of the consensus forecast of the economy, estimates of receipts for the current and the ensuing state fiscal year and the joint report of the director of the budget and the secretary of the senate finance committee and the secretary of the assembly ways and means committee, and directing the state comptroller to provide estimates for receipts for the current and ensuing state fiscal year; and to amend the education law, in relation to the timing and notice of annual elections in school districts and the submission of a property tax report card and the calculation of the fiscal year for certain school districts

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

1     Section 1. Section 3 of the state finance law, as added by chapter 1  
2     of the laws of 1943 and as separately renumbered by chapters 405 and 957  
3     of the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:  
4     S 3. Fiscal year. 1. The current fiscal year of the state which  
5     commenced with the first day of [July, nineteen hundred forty-two]  
6     APRIL, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, is hereby [abridged] EXTENDED and shall  
7     end with the thirty-first day of [March, nineteen hundred forty-three]  
8     MAY, TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN. For all purposes of determining annual  
9     increments of state employees pursuant to the education law, the civil  
10    service law or other state law, and for all purposes whenever by law  
11    some act is to be performed or time is to be measured by the fiscal year  
12    of the state, the current fiscal year, as so [abridged] EXTENDED, shall

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 be deemed to be a full year unless the context clearly requires a  
2 contrary construction.

3 On and after the first day of [April, nineteen hundred forty-three]  
4 JUNE, TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN, the fiscal year of the state, for the  
5 purpose of budget, appropriations, receipts and disbursements of state  
6 moneys and all other state affairs which are regulated in accordance  
7 with or based on fiscal years, including the fiscal affairs of all state  
8 departments, commissions, boards, agencies, offices and institutions,  
9 shall begin with the first day of [April] JUNE and end with the next  
10 following thirty-first day of [March] MAY.

11 2. All books and accounts in the offices of the comptroller and the  
12 department of taxation and finance shall be kept by fiscal years. All  
13 annual accounts required to be rendered to the comptroller or to such  
14 department by any person shall be closed on the thirty-first day of  
15 [March] MAY in each year, and be rendered as soon thereafter as practi-  
16 cable, if no time is specially prescribed by law.

17 3. Where any statute provides, in terms or effect, that any inventory  
18 or account, or a report relating in whole or in part to receipts and  
19 disbursements of money, be made to the legislature or any state officer  
20 annually, or for a year, by a department, commission, board, or officer  
21 under the state government, such inventory or account, and such report  
22 so far as it relates to such receipts and disbursements, shall be for  
23 the preceding fiscal year, unless the calendar year be expressly  
24 mentioned.

25 4. Existing provisions of other laws describing or referring to a  
26 fiscal year of the state as beginning [July] APRIL first and ending  
27 [June thirtieth] MARCH THIRTY-FIRST, or making any requirement with  
28 respect to such fiscal year, or referring to any year so beginning and  
29 ending which applies to inventories or accounts in state matters, or to  
30 reports relating to state money or property, shall be deemed modified by  
31 and be construed in connection with this section, and be deemed to refer  
32 to a fiscal or to another year or period beginning and ending as [here-  
33 in] prescribed IN THIS SECTION for a fiscal year.

34 S 2. Subdivision 6 of section 23 of the state finance law, as amended  
35 by chapter 1 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

36 6. Consensus economic and revenue forecasting conference; report. (a)  
37 (1) By the end of February in each year, prior to the report required by  
38 paragraph (b) of this subdivision, the chairperson and ranking minority  
39 member of the senate finance committee, the chairperson and ranking  
40 minority member of the assembly ways and means committee and the direc-  
41 tor of the budget shall jointly convene a consensus economic and revenue  
42 forecasting conference in the form of a joint legislative-executive  
43 hearing, for the purpose of assisting the governor and the legislature  
44 in reaching the consensus revenue forecast required by paragraph (b) of  
45 this subdivision. The conveners of the conference shall invite the state  
46 comptroller and such other participants to the conference as shall, in  
47 their judgment, provide guidance on the current conditions in, and prob-  
48 able outlook for the performance of, the economy of the state, as well  
49 as the effect of such conditions and such performance on state receipts.

50 (2) ON OR AFTER APRIL SIXTEENTH, THE CHAIRPERSON AND RANKING MINORITY  
51 MEMBER OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE CHAIRPERSON AND RANKING  
52 MINORITY MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE AND THE DIREC-  
53 TOR OF THE BUDGET SHALL JOINTLY RECONVENE TO REVISE THE CONSENSUS FORE-  
54 CAST OF THE ECONOMY AND ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS FOR THE CURRENT AND THE  
55 ENSUING STATE FISCAL YEAR. THE REVISED CONSENSUS FORECAST OF THE ECONOMY

1 AND ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS SHALL INCORPORATE THE MOST CURRENT TAX REVENUE  
2 AND ANY OTHER PERTINENT FISCAL INFORMATION.

3 (b) (1) On or before March first in each year, the director of the  
4 budget and the secretary of the senate finance committee and the secre-  
5 tary of the assembly ways and means committee shall issue a joint report  
6 containing a consensus forecast of the economy and estimates of receipts  
7 for the current and the ensuing state fiscal year. Such estimates of  
8 receipts shall include, but not be limited to: expected tax receipts on  
9 an all-funds basis, projected lottery receipts, and anticipated miscel-  
10 laneous receipts to be received in the general fund. The estimate of  
11 receipts for the ensuing fiscal year contained in the report, shall be  
12 all receipts from such sources described in this subdivision available  
13 to make disbursements authorized by the appropriation bills submitted by  
14 the governor pursuant to section three of article seven of the constitu-  
15 tion for the ensuing fiscal year.

16 (2) ON OR BEFORE MAY FIRST IN EACH YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET  
17 AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARY OF  
18 THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SHALL ISSUE A REVISED VERSION OF  
19 THE JOINT REPORT THAT WAS INITIALLY DUE BY MARCH FIRST AND THAT CONTAINS  
20 A CONSENSUS FORECAST OF THE ECONOMY AND ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS.

21 (c) (1) On a failure of the director of the budget, the secretary of  
22 the senate finance committee and the secretary of the assembly ways and  
23 means committee to issue a joint report containing a consensus forecast  
24 as provided in paragraph (b) of this subdivision, the state comptroller  
25 shall, on or before March fifth, provide estimates of receipts for the  
26 current and the ensuing state fiscal year. Such estimates shall include,  
27 but not be limited to, expected tax receipts on an all-funds basis,  
28 projected lottery receipts, and miscellaneous receipts to be received in  
29 the general fund. In rendering his or her estimate, as required in this  
30 paragraph, the comptroller shall give due consideration to the inherent  
31 risks in economic and revenue forecasting and the interest of the state  
32 to maintain budget balance throughout the fiscal year. The estimate of  
33 receipts for the ensuing fiscal year provided by the state comptroller,  
34 shall be all receipts from such sources available to make disbursements  
35 authorized by the appropriation bills submitted by the governor pursuant  
36 to section three of article seven of the constitution for the ensuing  
37 fiscal year.

38 (2) ON A FAILURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET AND THE SECRETARY OF  
39 THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARY OF THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND  
40 MEANS COMMITTEE TO ISSUE A JOINT REPORT REVISING THE MARCH FIRST CONSEN-  
41 SUS FORECAST THE STATE COMPTROLLER SHALL, ON OR BEFORE MAY FIFTH,  
42 PROVIDE ESTIMATES FOR RECEIPTS FOR THE CURRENT AND ENSUING STATE FISCAL  
43 YEAR. SUCH ESTIMATES SHALL INCORPORATE THE MOST CURRENT TAX REVENUE AND  
44 ANY OTHER PERTINENT FISCAL INFORMATION.

45 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 2022 of the education law, as amended by  
46 section 7 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, is amended to  
47 read as follows:

48 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, PRIOR  
49 TO TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN the election of trustees or members of the  
50 board of education, and the vote upon the appropriation of the necessary  
51 funds to meet the estimated expenditures, in any common school district,  
52 union free school district, central school district or central high  
53 school district shall be held at the annual meeting and election on the  
54 third Tuesday in May, provided, however, that such election shall be  
55 held on the second Tuesday in May if the commissioner at the request of  
56 a local school board certifies no later than March first that such

1 election would conflict with religious observances. COMMENCING IN TWO  
2 THOUSAND EIGHTEEN, THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES OR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF  
3 EDUCATION, AND THE VOTE UPON THE APPROPRIATION OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO  
4 MEET THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES, IN ANY COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNION  
5 FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
6 DISTRICT SHALL BE HELD AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION ON THE FOURTH  
7 TUESDAY IN JUNE. The sole trustee, board of trustees or board of educa-  
8 tion of every common, union free, central or central high school  
9 district and every city school district to which this article applies  
10 shall hold a budget hearing not less than seven nor more than fourteen  
11 days prior to the annual meeting and election or special district meet-  
12 ing at which a school budget vote will occur, and shall prepare and  
13 present to the voters at such budget hearing a proposed school district  
14 budget for the ensuing school year.

15 S 4. Subdivision 2 of section 2601-a of the education law, as amended  
16 by section 9 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, is amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 2. The board of education shall conduct all annual and special school  
19 district meetings for the purpose of adopting a school district budget  
20 in the same manner as a union free school district in accordance with  
21 the provisions of article forty-one of this title, except as otherwise  
22 provided by this section. [The] PRIOR TO TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN, THE  
23 annual meeting and election of each such city school district shall be  
24 held on the third Tuesday of May in each year, provided, however that  
25 such annual meeting and election shall be held on the second Tuesday in  
26 May if the commissioner at the request of a local school board certifies  
27 no later than March first that such election would conflict with reli-  
28 gious observances, and any school budget revote shall be held on the  
29 date and in the same manner specified in subdivision three of section  
30 two thousand seven of this title. PRIOR TO TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN, THE  
31 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF EACH SUCH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL BE  
32 HELD ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF MAY IN EACH YEAR, PROVIDED, HOWEVER THAT  
33 SUCH ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION SHALL BE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY IN  
34 MAY IF THE COMMISSIONER AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD CERTIFIES  
35 NO LATER THAN MARCH FIRST THAT SUCH ELECTION WOULD CONFLICT WITH RELI-  
36 GIOUS OBSERVANCES, AND ANY SCHOOL BUDGET REVOTE SHALL BE HELD ON THE  
37 DATE AND IN THE SAME MANNER SPECIFIED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION  
38 TWO THOUSAND SEVEN OF THIS TITLE. The provisions of this article, and  
39 where applicable subdivisions nine and nine-a of section twenty-five  
40 hundred two of this title, governing the qualification and registration  
41 of voters, and procedures for the nomination and election of members of  
42 the board of education shall continue to apply, and shall govern the  
43 qualification and registration of voters and voting procedures with  
44 respect to the adoption of a school district budget.

45 S 5. Subdivision 1 of section 2003 of the education law, as amended by  
46 chapter 64 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows:

47 1. The district clerk of each common school district shall give notice  
48 of the availability of the statement of expenditures pursuant to the  
49 provisions of section sixteen hundred eight of this [chapter] TITLE and  
50 shall also give notice of the time and place of the annual meeting by  
51 publishing a notice [four] TWO times within the [seven] THREE weeks next  
52 preceding such annual meeting, the first publication to be at least  
53 [forty-five] EIGHTEEN days before said meeting, in two newspapers if  
54 there shall be two, or in one newspaper if there shall be but one,  
55 having general circulation within such district. But if no newspaper  
56 shall then have general circulation therein, the said notice shall be

1 posted in at least twenty of the most public places in said district  
2 forty-five days before the time of such meeting. THE CLERK OF EACH  
3 COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL POST PREDOMINATELY ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
4 OFFICIAL WEBSITE THE NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE STATEMENT OF  
5 EXPENDITURES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION SIXTEEN HUNDRED EIGHT  
6 OF THIS TITLE, AND SHALL ALSO POST PREDOMINATELY ON THE SCHOOL  
7 DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
8 THROUGHOUT THE THREE WEEKS NEXT PRECEDING SUCH DISTRICT MEETING, THE  
9 FIRST PUBLICATION TO BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN DAYS BEFORE SAID MEETING.

10 S 6. Subdivision 1 of section 2004 of the education law, as amended by  
11 chapter 68 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

12 1. The clerk of each union free school district shall give notice of  
13 the availability of the statement of expenditures pursuant to the  
14 provisions of section seventeen hundred sixteen of this [chapter] TITLE  
15 and shall also give notice of the time and place of the annual meeting  
16 and the notice required by section seventeen hundred sixteen of this  
17 [chapter] TITLE by publishing a notice [four] TWO times within the  
18 [seven] THREE weeks next preceding such district meeting, the first  
19 publication to be at least [forty-five] EIGHTEEN days before said meet-  
20 ing, in two newspapers if there shall be two, or in one newspaper if  
21 there shall be but one, having general circulation within such district.  
22 But if no newspaper shall then have general circulation therein, the  
23 said notice shall be posted in at least twenty of the most public places  
24 in said district forty-five days before the time of such meeting. THE  
25 CLERK OF EACH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL POST PREDOMINATELY ON THE  
26 SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE THE NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE  
27 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION SEVEN-  
28 TEEN HUNDRED SIXTEEN OF THIS TITLE AND SHALL ALSO POST PREDOMINATELY ON  
29 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE ANNUAL  
30 MEETING THROUGHOUT THE THREE WEEKS NEXT PRECEDING SUCH DISTRICT MEETING,  
31 THE FIRST PUBLICATION TO BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN DAYS BEFORE SAID MEETING.

32 S 7. Paragraph b of subdivision 7 of section 1608 of the education  
33 law, as amended by section 4 of part H of chapter 83 of the laws of  
34 2002, is amended to read as follows:

35 b. A copy of the property tax report card prepared for the annual  
36 district meeting shall be submitted to the department in the manner  
37 prescribed by the department by the end of the business day next follow-  
38 ing approval of the report card by the trustee or board of trustees, but  
39 no later than [twenty-four] EIGHTEEN days prior to the statewide uniform  
40 voting day. The department shall compile such data for all school  
41 districts whose budgets are subject to a vote of the qualified voters  
42 and shall make such compilation available electronically at least ten  
43 days prior to the statewide uniform voting day.

44 S 8. Section 2515 of the education law, as added by chapter 171 of the  
45 laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

46 S 2515. Fiscal year. The fiscal year for city school districts of  
47 cities with less than one hundred twenty-five thousand inhabitants shall  
48 be the period commencing with [July] AUGUST first and ending with [June  
49 thirtieth] JULY THIRTY-FIRST next following.

50 S 9. Subdivision 3 of section 2006 of the education law, as added by  
51 section 4 of part M of chapter 57 of the laws of 2005, is amended to  
52 read as follows:

53 3. Whenever the voters shall have defeated the budget of the school  
54 district at the annual meeting and election, the trustees may call a  
55 special district meeting for a school budget revote to be held on the  
56 [third] FOURTH Tuesday of [June] JULY, provided, however that such budg-

1 et revote shall be held on the [second] THIRD Tuesday in [June] JULY if  
2 the commissioner at the request of a local school board certifies no  
3 later than March first that such vote would conflict with religious  
4 observances. The trustees shall give the notices required by subdivision  
5 one of section two thousand three of this part and this section by  
6 publishing such notices once in each week within the two weeks next  
7 preceding such special meeting, the first publication to be at least  
8 fourteen days before such meeting, with any required posting to be four-  
9 teen days before the time of such meeting.

10 S 10. Paragraph b of subdivision 3 of section 2007 of the education  
11 law, as amended by section 5 of part M of chapter 57 of the laws of  
12 2005, is amended to read as follows:

13 b. A school budget revote called pursuant to paragraph a of this  
14 subdivision shall be held on the [third] FOURTH Tuesday of [June] JULY,  
15 provided, however that such budget revote shall be held on the [second]  
16 THIRD Tuesday in [June] JULY if the commissioner at the request of a  
17 local school board certifies no later than March first that such vote  
18 would conflict with religious observances.

19 S 11. This act shall take effect January 1, 2018; provided, however  
20 that the amendments to sections 2022 and 2601-a of the education law  
21 made by sections three and four of this act shall not affect the expira-  
22 tion of such sections and shall be deemed to expire therewith.