

STATE OF NEW YORK

6780

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BARCLAY, BLANKENBUSH, J. M. GIGLIO, GOODELL, HAWLEY, McDONOUGH, MONTESANO, RA, FRIEND, B. MILLER, WALSH, BRABENEC, ASHBY, SMITH, MIKULIN, NORRIS, TAGUE, MORINELLO, MANKTELOW, SALKA, BYRNES, WALCZYK, SIMPSON, LAWLER, LEMONDES, DeSTEFANO, M. MILLER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BROWN, FITZPATRICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the lump sum allocation advisory committee (Part A); to amend the state finance law, in relation to requiring transparency, identification and disclosure of certain appropriations (Part B); to amend the executive law, in relation to withholding the salaries of the governor, agency commissioners and deputy commissioners for failing to meet certain reporting deadlines (Part C); to amend the tax law, in relation to creating a tax rate reduction board to look at personal income tax and corporate franchise tax rates (Part D); to amend the economic development law, in relation to conducting an audit of all state economic development programs (Part E); to amend the public officers law and the election law, in relation to prohibiting certain political contributions by individuals appointed to entities that oversee lump sum appropriations (Part F); and to amend the public authorities law, in relation to prohibiting certain third party contracts (Part G)

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. It is the duty of the
2 state government to be responsible, open and transparent about how it
3 spends the taxpayer's hard earned money. With billions of dollars of
4 lump sum appropriations included in the state budget that include no
5 details on who receives the money, or even which elected official has
6 control over the appropriation, and with continued delays in releasing
7 reports by state agencies on the effectiveness of related programs, the
8 government has failed to live up to its responsibility. Often times,

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

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1 this failure goes even deeper, as individuals and entities have
2 personally benefited from the lack of accountability and transparency.
3 Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary to create a lump sum allo-
4 cation advisory committee, require greater transparency related to lump
5 sum appropriations, implement penalties for certain state agencies and
6 entities that fail to release timely reports, prohibit certain political
7 contributions by appointees and conduct studies on how to simplify the
8 current tax system and economic development environment to ensure the
9 current system that creates winners and losers is changed. By implement-
10 ing these policies, the state government can begin to repair the
11 complete breakdown of trust over how it allocates taxpayer money.

12 § 2. This act enacts into law major components of legislation provid-
13 ing for the creation of a lump sum allocation advisory committee,
14 requiring greater transparency related to lump sum appropriations,
15 implementing penalties for certain state agencies and entities that fail
16 to release timely reports, prohibiting certain political contributions
17 by appointees and conducting studies on how to simplify the current tax
18 system and economic development environment to ensure the current system
19 that creates winners and losers is changed. Each component is wholly
20 contained within a Part identified as Parts A through G. The effective
21 date for each particular provision contained within such Part is set
22 forth in the last section of such Part. Any provision in any section
23 contained within a Part, including the effective date of the Part, which
24 makes reference to a section "of this act", when used in connection with
25 that particular component, shall be deemed to mean and refer to the
26 corresponding section of the Part in which it is found. Section four of
27 this act sets forth the general effective date of this act.

28 PART A

29 Section 1. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section
30 49-a to read as follows:

31 § 49-a. Lump sum allocation advisory committee. 1. Definitions. As
32 used in this section, the following terms shall have the following mean-
33 ings:

34 (a) "committee" shall mean the lump sum allocation advisory committee
35 as established by subdivision two of this section;

36 (b) "lump sum appropriation" shall mean an item of appropriation with
37 a single related object or purpose, the purpose of which is to fund one
38 or more grantees by a means other than a statutorily prescribed formula
39 or an allocation pursuant to subdivision five of section twenty-four of
40 this chapter; and

41 (c) "grantee" shall have the same meaning as subdivision twenty-two of
42 section two of this chapter.

43 2. Establishment. There is hereby established the lump sum allocation
44 advisory committee consisting of the director of the division of budget,
45 the comptroller and the attorney general.

46 3. Powers and duties. The committee shall have the power and duty to:
47 (a) review all requests for allocations from a lump sum appropriation
48 where a grantee is not identified;

49 (b) request and receive, and shall utilize and be provided with such
50 facilities, resources and data of any court, department, division,
51 board, bureau, commission, agency subsidiary or subdivision of the state
52 or any political subdivision thereof, or of any public authority or
53 public benefit corporation, as it may reasonably request to carry out
54 its powers and duties pursuant to this subdivision;

1 (c) review and examine financial and personal relationships between
2 any potential grantee and the entity requesting the allocation to deter-
3 mine if a conflict of interest exists;

4 (d) examine the top qualified entities for allocations from a lump sum
5 appropriation that are allocated through a competitive process to deter-
6 mine if a conflict of interest exists;

7 (e) deny any allocation from a lump sum appropriation to a grantee if
8 the committee determines a conflict of interest exists; and

9 (f) approve any allocation from a lump sum appropriation after
10 completing a full and thorough review of such allocation.

11 4. Allocation. No monies from a lump sum appropriation shall be allo-
12 cated unless unanimously approved by the committee.

13 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

14 PART B

15 Section 1. Subdivisions 4 and 5 of section 24 of the state finance
16 law, as added by chapter 1 of the laws of 2007, are amended and a new
17 subdivision 5-a is added to read as follows:

18 4. Any appropriation submitted by the governor, when practicable, or
19 added to such budget bills, pursuant to section four of article seven of
20 the constitution, shall only contain itemized appropriations which shall
21 not be in the form of lump sum appropriations, and provided further that
22 for all non-federal state operations appropriations, such bill or bills
23 shall only contain itemized appropriations and shall be made, where
24 practicable, by agency, and within each agency by program and within
25 each program at the following level of detail and in the following
26 order:

27 (a) by fund type, which at a minimum shall include general fund,
28 special revenue-other funds, capital projects funds and debt service
29 funds;

30 (b) for personal service appropriations, separate appropriations shall
31 be made for regular personal service, temporary personal service, and
32 holiday and overtime pay;

33 (c) for nonpersonal service appropriations, separate appropriations
34 shall be made for supplies and materials, travel, contractual services,
35 equipment and fringe benefits, as appropriate; and

36 (d) at the request or discretion of the governor or a member of the
37 legislature, such appropriation shall include the name of the governor
38 or member of the legislature that requested such appropriation.

39 5. Any appropriation submitted by the governor, or added pursuant to
40 section four of article seven of the constitution without designating a
41 grantee shall be allocated only pursuant to a plan setting forth an
42 itemized list of grantees with the amount to be received by each, or the
43 methodology for allocating such appropriation. Such plan shall be
44 subject to the approval of the chair of the senate finance committee,
45 the chair of the assembly ways and means committee, and the director of
46 the budget, and thereafter shall be included in a concurrent resolution
47 calling for the expenditure of such monies, which resolution must be
48 approved by a majority vote of all members elected to each house upon a
49 roll call vote.

50 5-a. Any appropriation submitted by the governor or added to such
51 budget bills, pursuant to section four of article seven of the constitu-
52 tion, or allocation from a lump sum appropriation shall be subject to
53 the following:

(a) the governor or member of the legislature requesting such appropriation or allocation from a lump sum appropriation shall be required to submit a signed conflict of interest form and submit such form to the lump sum allocation advisory committee as established pursuant to section forty-nine-a of this chapter to ensure that no conflict of interest exists; the lump sum allocation advisory committee shall designate the form and content of the conflict of interest form. The governor or member of the legislature shall disclose on the conflict of interest form all political donations he or she is receiving or has received in the past from the intended recipient of the appropriation funding or allocation from a lump sum appropriation. Such a conflict of interest form shall be signed by the governor or member of the legislature under penalty of perjury;

(b) an appropriation provided at the discretion of the governor or member of the legislature or an allocation from a lump sum appropriation shall not be provided if the lump sum allocation advisory committee declares a conflict of interest exists between the governor or a member of the legislature designating the appropriation or allocation from a lump sum appropriation and the potential recipient. These appropriations and allocations from lump sum appropriations cannot fund an individual or entity that employs or otherwise compensates the governor or member of the legislature, governor's family or member of the legislator's family, any person sharing the home of the governor or member of the legislature or the governor's or a member of the legislator's staff for services or labor rendered. Furthermore, the governor or members of the legislature shall not designate appropriations or request allocations from a lump sum appropriation if the governor or member of the legislature, a member of the governor's or member of the legislator's family, any person sharing the home of the governor or member of the legislature or a member of the governor's or member of the legislator's staff is involved with the operations of the organization in a decision-making capacity including but not limited to working on an unpaid, volunteer basis or as a member of the directing board of an organization; and

(c) an appropriation provided at the discretion of the governor or member of the legislature or an allocation from a lump sum appropriation shall not be provided to any individual or entity who made a political donation within the past year to the governor or member of the legislature requesting the appropriation or allocation from a lump sum appropriation until the political donation is refunded to the individual or entity.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

PART C

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 33 to read as follows:

§ 33. Lump sum appropriation reporting; enforcement. 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the comptroller is directed to withhold the salaries of the governor, agency commissioners and deputy commissioners when economic development state agencies, subsidiaries and authorities, and/or any state entity required to issue a report related to a lump sum appropriation fails to meet statutorily required reporting deadlines.

2. For purposes of this section "economic development state agencies, subsidiaries and authorities" shall include, but are not limited to the department of economic development, empire state development corporation

1 and all of its subsidiaries, the department of taxation and finance, and
2 the dormitory authority of the state of New York and its subsidiaries.

3 3. The comptroller shall withhold the salaries of the governor and
4 offending agency commissioners and deputy commissioners until such
5 required reports, as described in subdivision one of this section, are
6 issued.

7 4. Agencies may receive an extension to submit a required report, as
8 described in subdivision one of this section, if requested and approved
9 by all legislative conference leaders.

10 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

11 PART D

12 Section 1. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 171-q to
13 read as follows:

14 § 171-q. Tax rate reduction board; personal and corporate tax study.

15 (1) (a) The commissioner shall contract with a nationally recognized
16 entity to conduct a study to examine the corresponding personal income
17 tax brackets and dollar amounts that could be enacted if a proportionate
18 reduction in the personal income tax bracket and dollar amounts as
19 provided in section six hundred one of this chapter for taxable years
20 beginning after two thousand thirteen and before two thousand twenty-
21 three and for taxable years beginning after two thousand twenty-two, if
22 all of the personal income tax credits provided in section six hundred
23 six of this chapter were eliminated and personal income tax receipts
24 were forecasted to be revenue neutral based on current law.

25 (b) The commissioner shall contract with a nationally recognized enti-
26 ty to conduct a study to examine the corresponding reduction in the
27 imposition of the corporate franchise tax that could be enacted if a
28 proportionate reduction in the imposition of the corporate franchise tax
29 as provided by sections two hundred nine and two hundred ten of this
30 chapter, if all the credits provided in section two hundred ten-B of
31 this chapter were eliminated and the corporate franchise tax receipts
32 were forecasted to be revenue neutral based on current law.

33 (2) There is hereby established a tax rate reduction board consisting
34 of four members. One representative shall be appointed from each of the
35 following:

36 (a) the speaker of the assembly;

37 (b) the minority leader of the assembly;

38 (c) the temporary president of the senate; and

39 (d) the minority leader of the senate.

40 (3) The tax rate reduction board shall:

41 (a) approve the selection of the nationally recognized entity
42 described in subdivision one of this section, priority for such entity
43 shall be given to firms that are not current vendors doing business with
44 the state;

45 (b) oversee the required reports described in paragraphs (a) and (b)
46 of subdivision one of this section; and

47 (c) assist in the determination of areas of inquiry for, review the
48 progress of, and evaluate the results of such required reports.

49 (4) Such board, in consultation with the commissioner shall oversee
50 the analysis of the contracting entity and issue a report to the gover-
51 nor, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the assembly,
52 the temporary president of the senate and the minority leader of the
53 senate detailing the results of such studies described in paragraphs (a)

1 and (b) of subdivision one of this section within one year after the
2 effective date of this section.

3 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

4 PART E

5 Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new
6 section 107 to read as follows:

7 § 107. Economic development audit board. 1. The comptroller in coordi-
8 nation with the commissioner and the commissioner of taxation and
9 finance shall contract with a nationally recognized entity to conduct an
10 audit of all state economic development programs. Such audit shall
11 include, but not be limited to:

12 (a) identifying all programs by type and funding source;

13 (b) identifying the types of businesses that have received financial
14 assistance;

15 (c) reviewing information available on job creation or other data on
16 economic expansion;

17 (d) analyzing the geographic distribution of financial assistance
18 throughout the state;

19 (e) reviewing a sample of loans and grants to determine if statutory
20 requirements for the programs were followed;

21 (f) reviewing information available on economic development programs
22 in other states; and

23 (g) any other information deemed necessary by the comptroller in coor-
24 ordination with the commissioner and the commissioner of taxation and
25 finance.

26 2. There is hereby established an economic development audit board
27 consisting of four members. One representative shall be appointed from
28 each of the following:

29 (a) the speaker of the assembly;

30 (b) the minority leader of the assembly;

31 (c) the temporary president of the senate; and

32 (d) the minority leader of the senate.

33 3. The economic development board shall:

34 (a) approve the selection of the nationally recognized entity
35 described in subdivision one of this section, priority for such entity
36 shall be given to firms that are not current vendors doing business with
37 the state;

38 (b) oversee the required reports described in subdivision five of this
39 section; and

40 (c) assist in the determination of areas of inquiry for, review the
41 progress of, and evaluate the results of such required reports.

42 4. The economic development audit board in consultation with the comp-
43 troller, the commissioner, and the commissioner of taxation and finance
44 shall develop all necessary rules and regulations to conduct an audit of
45 economic development programs pursuant to this section. Following the
46 review and audit of such economic development programs, the board shall
47 recommend all necessary changes to make such economic development
48 programs more transparent, streamlined, and to ensure that such programs
49 are meeting the goals of the laws that established them and providing
50 for a return on investment to the state. The results of this audit shall
51 be filed with the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the
52 minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the
53 minority leader of the assembly and made available for public review
54 online.

1 5. After the conclusion of the audit, the board in consultation with
2 the comptroller, the commissioner and the commissioner of taxation and
3 finance shall study the feasibility of reducing the number of economic
4 development programs currently offered by the state and its subsidiaries
5 and replacing these programs with one centralized competitive program. A
6 report of the study, outlining the impact of such consolidation of
7 programs shall be posted online for public review and filed with the
8 governor, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of
9 the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the minority leader of the
10 assembly within one year after the effective date of this section.

11 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

12 PART F

13 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 17 of section 73 of the public
14 officers law, as added by chapter 14 of the laws of 2007, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (c) (i) No state officer or employee shall, directly or indirectly,
17 use his or her official authority to compel or induce any other state
18 officer or employee to make or promise to make any political contrib-
19 ution, whether by gift of money, service or other thing of value.

20 (ii) No officer, appointed by one or more state officers, or by the
21 legislature, including but not limited to appointees to a commission,
22 board, council or panel, charged with the distribution of state lump sum
23 appropriations, as defined by subdivision twenty-one of section two of
24 the state finance law, shall not make any political contributions to
25 such appointing authority. This contribution prohibition shall also
26 apply to anyone residing in the appointee's household including, but not
27 limited to, a spouse, domestic partner and/or child. Such contribution
28 prohibition shall be for the term of one year prior to, one year follow-
29 ing, and during the term of his or her appointment. When an individual
30 is appointed to such a position, the appointee must identify any
31 contributions made to the appointing authority, and the appointing
32 authority must refund the entire contribution made within the previous
33 twelve-month period.

34 § 2. The election law is amended by adding a new section 14-133 to
35 read as follows:

36 § 14-133. Contributions by appointed party officers. Any appointed
37 party officer, including but not limited to appointees to a commission,
38 board, council or panel charged with the distribution of state lump sum
39 appropriations, as defined by subdivision twenty-one of section two of
40 the state finance law, shall not make any political contributions to
41 such appointing authority. This contribution prohibition shall also
42 apply to anyone residing in the appointee's household including, but not
43 limited to, a spouse, domestic partner and/or child. Such contribution
44 prohibition shall be for the term of one year prior to, one year follow-
45 ing, and during the term of his or her appointment. When an individual
46 is appointed to such a position, the appointee must identify any
47 contributions made to the appointing authority, and the appointing
48 authority must refund the entire contribution made within the previous
49 twelve-month period.

50 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

51 PART G

1 Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new
2 section 2882 to read as follows:

3 § 2882. Third-party contracting prohibited. 1. No state authority
4 shall enter into a contract or agreement or extend an existing contract
5 or agreement with another entity, unless authorized by special act of
6 the legislature, (i) where the exclusive or primary role of such entity
7 under the contract or agreement is to procure goods or services of any
8 kind, including, but not limited to, public work, construction, alter-
9 ations, or improvements to public facilities, grant contracts, employ-
10 ment contracts, revenue or concession contracts, the exchange of
11 personal or real property, the exchange of services, or any combination
12 thereof through a contract or agreement with a third party and (ii)
13 where such entity is acting as a procurement conduit, rather than being
14 directly responsible for the goods or services.

15 2. The comptroller may promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
16 necessary to enforce this section, including the standards for determin-
17 ing whether a contract is prohibited by this section.

18 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to
19 contracts entered into on and after such date.

20 § 3. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi-
21 sion, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of
22 competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
23 impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in
24 its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section
25 or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judg-
26 ment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of
27 the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such
28 invalid provisions had not been included herein.

29 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately provided, however, that
30 the applicable effective date of Parts A through G of this act shall be
31 as specifically set forth in the last section of such Parts.