

STATE OF NEW YORK

6911

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 20, 2021

Introduced by Sens. SERINO, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and
Families

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the
COVID-19 family relief act; and providing for the repeal of such
provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Statement of legislative intent. The legislature recognizes
2 the financial hardship placed on families during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3 As a direct result of the pandemic, school districts have developed
4 re-opening plans based on the resources and needs of the community. Some
5 districts are providing all remote instruction, some are offering a
6 combination of in-person instruction days and the remaining days of
7 on-line instruction, and still others are providing for a full day
8 in-person instruction. The intent of this act is to provide financial
9 assistance to low and middle income families for additional childcare
10 expenses directly related to the schedule of the local school district.

11 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 529-c to
12 read as follows:

13 § 529-c. COVID-19 family relief act. 1. Notwithstanding any incon-
14 sistent provision of law to the contrary, from remaining and future
15 federal funds provided for COVID-19 relief, including, but not limited
16 to, monies that have been allocated to the state of New York by the
17 federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of
18 2020 (P.L. 116-136) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021
19 (P.L. 116-260) that have not otherwise been obligated, the office of
20 children and family services shall make payment for child care services
21 directly to child care providers, as defined in section three hundred
22 ninety of the social services law, or as defined in section 20-800 of
23 the administrative code of the city of New York, if a child's attendance

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

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1 at such program is directly related to the schedule of the local school
2 district due to the novel coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19).

3 2. Funds made pursuant to this section shall be equitably distributed
4 among all regions of the state and be prioritized based on a parent or
5 guardian's status as an essential employee and the ability of such
6 parent or guardian to pay for additional childcare services.

7 3. The office of children and family services shall create an applica-
8 tion process for such funding and shall promulgate rules and regulations
9 for awarding and distributing funding pursuant to this section.

10 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire October
11 1, 2022 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed
12 repealed.