STATE OF NEW YORK

3420

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CONRAD -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating a school budget tax cap exemption for expenditures resulting from settlement awards in civil actions brought against school districts under the child victims act

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

Section 1. Paragraph i of subdivision 2 of section 2023-a of the education law, as added by section 2 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

i. "Tax levy limit" means the amount of taxes a school district is authorized to levy pursuant to this section, provided, however, that the tax levy limit shall not include the following:

(i) a tax levy necessary for expenditures resulting from court orders or judgments against the school district arising out of tort actions for any amount that exceeds five percent of the total tax levied in the prior school year;

(ii) **a tax levy necessary for expenditures resulting from court orders or judgments against the school district arising out of civil claims or causes of action brought pursuant to section two hundred fourteen-g of the civil practice law and rules;**

(iii) in years in which the system average actuarial contribution rate of the New York state and local employees' retirement system, as defined by paragraph ten of subdivision a of section nineteen-a of the retirement and social security law, increases by more than two percentage points from the previous year, a tax levy necessary for expenditures for the coming fiscal year for school district employer contributions to the New York state and local employees' retirement system caused by growth in the system average actuarial contribution rate minus two percentage points;

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

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[~~(iii)~~] (iv) in years in which the normal contribution rate of the New York state teachers' retirement system, as defined by paragraph a of subdivision two of section five hundred seventeen of this chapter, increases by more than two percentage points from the previous year, a tax levy necessary for expenditures for the coming fiscal year for school district employer contributions to the New York state teachers' retirement system caused by growth in the normal contribution rate minus two percentage points; and

[~~(iv)~~] (v) a capital tax levy.

§ 2. Subdivision 1, subparagraph 4 of paragraph a of subdivision 3, paragraph (a) of subdivision 6, and subdivision 9 of section 2023-a of the education law, as added by section 2 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, are amended to read as follows:

1. Generally. Unless otherwise provided by law, the amount of taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of any school district, other than a city school district of a city with one hundred twenty-five thousand inhabitants or more, shall not exceed the tax levy limit established pursuant to this section, not including any tax levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of this section.

(4) Subtract the tax levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) and [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of this section for the prior school year, if any.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in the event the trustee, trustees or board of education of a school district that is subject to the provisions of this section proposes a budget that will require a tax levy that exceeds the tax levy limit for the corresponding school year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of this section, then such budget shall be approved if sixty percent of the votes cast thereon are in the affirmative.

9. Nothing in this section shall preclude the trustee, trustees, or board of education of a school district, in their discretion, from submitting additional items of expenditures to the voters for approval as separate propositions or the voters from submitting propositions pursuant to sections two thousand eight and two thousand thirty-five of this part; provided however, except in the case of a proposition submitted for any expenditure contained within subparagraphs (i) through [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of this section, if any proposition, or propositions collectively that are subject to a vote on the same date, would require an expenditure of money that would require a tax levy and would result in the tax levy limit being exceeded for the corresponding school year then such proposition shall be approved if sixty percent of the votes cast thereon are in the affirmative.

§ 3. Paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section 1608 of the education law, as amended by chapter 514 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

a. Each year, commencing with the proposed budget for the two thousand--two thousand one school year, the trustee or board of trustees shall prepare a property tax report card, pursuant to regulations of the commissioner, and shall make it publicly available by transmitting it to local newspapers of general circulation, appending it to copies of the proposed budget made publicly available as required by law, making it available for distribution at the annual meeting, and otherwise disseminating it as required by the commissioner. Such report card shall include: (i) the amount of total spending and total estimated school tax levy that would result from adoption of the proposed budget and the percentage increase or decrease in total spending and total school tax levy from the school district budget for the preceding school year; and (ii) the district's tax levy limit determined pursuant to section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, and the estimated school tax levy, excluding any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, that would result from adoption of the proposed budget; and (iii) the projected enrollment growth for the school year for which the budget is prepared, and the percentage change in enrollment from the previous year; and (iv) the percentage increase in the consumer price index, as defined in paragraph c of this subdivision; and (v) the projected amount of the unappropriated unreserved fund balance that will be retained if the proposed budget is adopted, the projected amount of the reserved fund balance, the projected amount of the appropriated fund balance, the percentage of the proposed budget that the unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents, the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance retained in the school district budget for the preceding school year, and the percentage of the school district budget for the preceding school year that the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents, and a schedule of reserve funds, setting forth the name of each reserve fund, a description of its purpose, the balance as of the close of the third quarter of the current school district fiscal year and a brief statement explaining any plans for the use of each such reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year.

§ 4. Paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section 1716 of the education law, as amended by chapter 514 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

a. Each year, commencing with the proposed budget for the two thousand--two thousand one school year, the board of education shall prepare a property tax report card, pursuant to regulations of the commissioner, and shall make it publicly available by transmitting it to local newspapers of general circulation, appending it to copies of the proposed budget made publicly available as required by law, making it available for distribution at the annual meeting, and otherwise disseminating it as required by the commissioner. Such report card shall include: (i) the amount of total spending and total estimated school tax levy that would result from adoption of the proposed budget and the percentage increase or decrease in total spending and total school tax levy from the school district budget for the preceding school year; and (ii) the district's tax levy limit determined pursuant to section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, and the estimated school tax levy, excluding any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, that would result from adoption of the proposed budget; and (iii) the projected enrollment growth for the school year for which the budget is prepared, and the percentage change in enrollment from the previous year; and (iv) the percentage increase in the consumer price index, as defined in paragraph c of this subdivision; and (v) the projected amount of the unappropriated unreserved fund balance that will be retained if the proposed budget is adopted, the projected amount of the reserved fund balance, the projected amount of the appropriated fund balance, the percentage of the proposed budget that the unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents, the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance retained in the school district budget for the preceding school year, a schedule of reserve funds, setting forth the name of each reserve fund, a description of its purpose, the balance as of the close of the third quarter of the current school district fiscal year and a brief statement explaining any plans for the use of each such reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year and the percentage of the school district budget for the preceding school year that the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents.

§ 5. The opening paragraph of subdivision 2-a of section 2022 of the education law, as amended by section 7 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

Every common, union free, central, central high school district and city school district to which this article applies shall mail a school budget notice to all qualified voters of the school district after the date of the budget hearing, but no later than six days prior to the annual meeting and election or special district meeting at which a school budget vote will occur. The school budget notice shall compare the percentage increase or decrease in total spending under the proposed budget over total spending under the school district budget adopted for the current school year, with the percentage increase or decrease in the consumer price index, from January first of the prior school year to January first of the current school year, and shall also include the information required by paragraphs a and b of this subdivision. The notice shall also set forth the date, time and place of the school budget vote, in the same manner as in the notice of annual meeting, and shall also include the district's tax levy limit pursuant to section two thousand twenty-three-a of this part, and the estimated school tax levy, excluding any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through [~~(iv)~~] (v) of paragraph i of subdivision two of section two thousand twenty-three-a of this part, that would result from adoption of the proposed budget. Such notice shall be in a form prescribed by the commissioner.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to school district budgets and the budget adoption process for the 2026-2027 school year; and shall continue to apply to school district budgets and the budget adoption process for any school year beginning in any calendar year during which this act is in effect.