STATE OF NEW YORK

4081

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to establishing the COVID heroes grant program

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

Section 1. Section 130 of the civil service law is amended by adding a new subdivision 15 to read as follows:

15. COVID heroes grant program. a. Any essential employee employed at a state university of New York hospital, who worked in-person at such hospital at any time during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order number two hundred two of two thousand twenty, as amended, shall be awarded a lump sum COVID heroes grant differential.

b. Such COVID heroes grant differential shall equal twenty-five hundred dollars. Such COVID heroes grant differential shall be in addition to such employee's basic annual salary, and shall not affect or impair any performance advancement payments, performance awards, longevity payments or other rights or benefits to which such employee may be entitled under the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that any differential payable pursuant to this subdivision shall be included as compensation for retirement purposes.

c. For the purposes of this subdivision, "essential employee" shall mean any employee providing in-person essential services or functions during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order number two hundred two of two thousand twenty, as amended, and designated as an essential employee or essential worker pursuant to such executive order, as amended, or by any law, rule or regulation.

§ 2. Any essential employee employed in a professional services negotiating unit position or in a managerial/confidential position in the unclassified service at a state university of New York hospital who

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

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worked in-person at any time in such hospital during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order number 202 of 2020, as amended, shall be awarded a COVID heroes grant differential. Such COVID heroes grant differential shall equal $2,500. Such COVID heroes grant differential shall be in addition to such employee's basic annual salary, and shall not affect or impair any other compensation, rights, or benefits to which such employee may be entitled; provided, however, that any COVID heroes grant differential payable pursuant to subdivision 15 of section 130 of the civil service law shall be included as compensation for retirement purposes. For the purposes of this section, "essential employee" shall mean any employee providing in-person essential services or functions during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order number 202 of 2020, as amended, and designated as an essential employee or essential worker pursuant to such executive order, as amended, or by any law, rule or regulation.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.