STATE OF NEW YORK

6945

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 18, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the transportation law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing incentives for attracting and retaining air traffic controllers in New York state

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

Section 1. The transportation law is amended by adding a new section 14-o to read as follows:

§ 14-o. Air traffic controller retention and incentive program. 1. There is hereby established an air traffic controller retention and incentive program which shall be administered by the department of transportation. Such program will provide the following financial incentives to federally employed air traffic controllers working at airports in New York state, in amounts to be determined by the commissioner of transportation:

(a) Signing bonuses for newly hired air traffic controllers.

(b) Retention bonuses for air traffic controllers who remain employed in New York state for a specified time period, to be determined by the commissioner of transportation.

(c) Relocation assistance for newly hired air traffic controllers employed at airports with staffing shortages who move to New York state for such employment.

2. The commissioner of transportation shall allocate funding from the air traffic controller retention and incentive program to:

(a) create partnerships with the state university of New York and the city university of New York to develop specialized training and certification programs for aspiring air traffic controllers;

(b) provide scholarships and grants for New York residents pursuing careers in air traffic control, with a focus on expanding access to underrepresented and underserved communities;

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

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(c) implement cost-of-living adjustments to ensure fair and competitive wages for air traffic controllers; and

(d) ensure that wage supplements remain competitive and responsive to inflation and living expenses.

3. The department of transportation, in collaboration with the federal aviation administration, shall develop workforce development initiatives to improve recruitment, working conditions, and job satisfaction for air traffic controllers in New York state.

4. Funding for the air traffic controller retention and incentive program shall be allocated through the air traffic controller retention and incentive fund established pursuant to section ninety-seven-bbbbb of the state finance law.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-bbbbb to read as follows:

§ 97-bbbbb. Air traffic controller retention and incentive fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of transportation and the comptroller a special fund to be known as the "air traffic controller retention and incentive fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues received pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen-o of the transportation law and all other moneys appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Any interest received by the comptroller on moneys on deposit in such fund shall be retained in and become part of such fund.

3. The monies of the fund shall be made available to the department of transportation for the purpose of administering the air traffic controller retention and incentive program pursuant to section fourteen-o of the transportation law.

4. Monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of transportation.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.