STATE OF NEW YORK

9612

IN ASSEMBLY

January 21, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the upstate cities preparedness and resiliency fund; making an appropriation therefor; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-uu to read as follows:

§ 99-uu. Upstate cities preparedness and resiliency fund. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "major upstate cities" shall mean cities with a population of more than one hundred twenty-five thousand and less than one million.

(b) "mid-sized upstate cities" shall mean cities with a population of more than twenty-five thousand and less than or equal to one hundred twenty-five thousand.

(c) "small upstate cities" shall mean cities with a population of twenty-five thousand or less.

(d) "population" shall mean the population of a city according to the United States census bureau's two thousand twenty-three American community survey one-year estimates.

2. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance and the state comptroller a special fund to be known as the "upstate cities preparedness and resiliency fund".

3. Such fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated thereto and all other moneys credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

4. The fund shall be governed and administered by the comptroller.

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

LBD14013-02-6

5. The moneys in such fund shall be awarded in the form of grants by the comptroller to support cities in counties other than Rockland, Westchester, Bronx, New York, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk that face recurring fiscal stress and operational challenges caused by extreme winter weather, aging infrastructure, high poverty rates, and a large share of tax-exempt property that limits local revenue capacity. Such grants shall be used for emergency preparedness, response and resilience measures. Eligible uses may include, but shall not be limited to: emergency operations and communications improvements, hazard mitigation and resilience planning, stormwater, culvert or winter weather resilience improvements, equipment and fleet winterization, infrastructure improvements.

6. Grants awarded under this section shall be distributed:

(a) within ninety days of the effective date of this section to major upstate cities in an amount equal to eighty million on a per-capita basis according to the most recent census.

(b) within two years of the effective date of this section to mid-sized upstate cities under a competitive grant program which shall be administered by the division of homeland security and emergency services, in collaboration with the senate committee on cities and the assembly committee on cities, for projects which demonstrate measurable improvements in preparedness, resilience or emergency coordination. A competitive grant awarded under this section to a mid-sized upstate city shall be between five hundred thousand and three million dollars.

(c) within two years of the effective date of this section to small upstate cities under a competitive grant program which is to be administered by the division of homeland security and emergency services, in collaboration with the senate committee on cities and the assembly committee on cities, for projects which demonstrate measurable improvements in preparedness, resilience or emergency coordination. A competitive grant awarded under this section to a small upstate city shall be between fifty thousand and two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

7. Moneys shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller, disbursed as advances, progress payments, reimbursements, or a combination thereof on vouchers approved and certified by the division of homeland security and emergency services.

§ 2. The sum of one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund not otherwise appropriated to the credit of the upstate cities preparedness and resiliency fund as established under section 99-uu of the state finance law for the purposes of granting awards and carrying out the provisions of this act. Such sum shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved in the manner provided by law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed three years after such effective date.