STATE OF NEW YORK

5550

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 24, 2025

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on New York City Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing high school students to vote on city-wide education councils regardless of age

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

Section 1. The opening paragraph and subparagraph 3 of paragraph a of subdivision 4 of section 2590-b of the education law, as amended by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

There shall be a city-wide council on special education created pursuant to this section. The city-wide council on special education shall consist of [~~eleven~~] thirteen voting members [~~and one non-voting member~~], as follows:

(3) [~~one non-voting member~~] two voting members who [~~is a~~] are high school [~~senior~~] students with an individualized education program, appointed by the administrator designated by the chancellor to supervise special education programs. Such member shall serve a one year term.

§ 2. The opening paragraph and subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 2590-b of the education law, as added by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

There shall be a city-wide council on English language learners created pursuant to this section. The city-wide council on English language learners shall consist of [~~eleven~~] thirteen voting members [~~and one non-voting member~~], as follows:

(iii) [~~one non-voting member~~] two voting members who [~~is a~~] are high school [~~senior~~] students who [~~is~~] are or [~~has~~] have been in a bilingual or English as a second language program, appointed by the administrator designated by the chancellor to supervise such programs. Such member shall serve a one year term.

§ 3. The opening paragraph and subparagraph (v) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 6 of section 2590-b of the education law, as added by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

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

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There shall be a city-wide council on high schools created pursuant to this section. The city-wide council on high schools shall consist of [~~thirteen~~] **fifteen** voting members [~~and one non-voting member~~], as follows:

(v) [~~one non-voting member~~] **two voting members** who [~~is a~~] **are** public high school [~~senior~~] **students**, appointed by the chancellor pursuant to a process developed by the chancellor. Such member shall serve a one year term.

§ 4. The opening paragraph and subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 7 of section 2590-b of the education law, as added by chapter 364 of the laws of 2022, are amended to read as follows:

There shall be a city-wide council on district seventy-five created pursuant to this section. The city-wide council for district seventy-five shall consist of [~~eleven~~] **thirteen** voting members [~~and one non-voting member~~], as follows:

(iii) [~~one non-voting member~~] **two voting members** who [~~is a~~] **are** high school [~~senior~~] **students** appointed by the administrator designated by the chancellor to supervise district seventy-five schools and programs. Such member shall serve a one year term.

§ 5. The opening paragraph and paragraph (d) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-c of the education law, as amended by chapter 364 of the laws of 2022, are amended to read as follows:

Each community district shall be governed by a community district education council. The community councils shall consist of [~~twelve~~] **fifteen** voting members [~~and two non-voting members~~], as follows:

(d) [~~Two non-voting~~] **three voting** members who are high school [~~seniors residing~~] **students attending a high school** in the district, shall be appointed by the superintendent from among the [~~elected~~] student [~~leadership~~] **body**. Such members shall serve for a one year term.

§ 6. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 2590-c of the education law, as amended by chapter 385 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

Each community district shall be governed by a community board to consist of nine members to be elected for a term of three years**, and two members who shall be students chosen by the board,** and to serve without compensation. Each such board shall select one of its members to serve as [~~chairman~~] **chairperson**.

§ 7. Subdivisions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of section 2590-c of the education law are renumbered subdivisions 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 and a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:

5. Every student attending any high school under the jurisdiction of the community board of such district shall be eligible for membership as a student on such community board. The community board shall fill both student positions within forty-five days of the community board's election.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that:

(a) the amendments to section 2590-b of the education law made by sections one, two, three and four of this act shall not affect the expiration of such section and shall expire and be deemed repealed therewith; and

(b) the amendments to section 2590-c of the education law made by section five of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such section when upon such date the provisions of section six and seven of this act shall take effect.