STATE OF NEW YORK

7999--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 15, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the installation of school master key boxes for building access by law enforcement and emergency responders

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 409-o to read as follows:

§ 409-o. Master key box. 1. (a) The board of education or trustees of every public school district, non-public school or educational institution, board of cooperative education services, county vocational education and extension board within the state and chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York shall arrange for, require, and install (i) at least one exterior master key box on the campus of any such public school district, non-public school or educational institution and (ii) on every instructional school building operated in a non-campus setting to permit emergency access to both law enforcement authorities and emergency responders from an exterior location designated by such board or chancellor in collaboration with local law enforcement authorities, provided that such requirement shall be waived if the board of education or trustees of the public school district, non-public school or educational institution, board of cooperative education services, county vocational education and extension board, or chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York maintains a written agreement with local law enforcement authorities acknowledging and approving a determination to exclude one or more prescribed exterior master key boxes from their school safety plan.

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

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(b) The board of education or trustees of a public school district, non-public school or educational institution, board of cooperative education services, county vocational education and extension board, or chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York shall collaborate with law enforcement authorities to consider including the following items in any master key boxes installed in accordance with their school safety plan:

(i) Master external and internal keys;

(ii) Access cards;

(iii) Maps of the school buildings.

2. Each master key box shall meet the basic commercial applications standard for antitheft alarms and devices as prescribed under the underwriters laboratories standard UL 1037.

§ 2. Paragraph f of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a of the education law, as amended by chapter 227 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

f. policies and procedures relating to school building security, including where appropriate the use of school safety officers and/or security devices or procedures. District-wide school safety teams shall consider, as part of its reviews of the comprehensive district-wide safety plan, the installation of a panic alarm system**, and shall, in the absence of a written agreement with local law enforcement authorities to the contrary, include installation of one or more exterior secure master key boxes in accordance with section four hundred nine-o of this chapter**. For purposes of this paragraph, "panic alarm system" shall mean a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from local law enforcement or, in the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a location designated by the superintendent of state police and may include one or more of the following: wired panic button or buttons, wireless panic button or buttons or a mobile or computer application;

§ 3. Paragraph c of subdivision 3 of section 2801-a of the education law, as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 54 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

c. floor plans, blueprints, schematics or other maps of the school interior, school grounds and road maps of the immediate surrounding area **and, if applicable, the location and contents of any exterior master key box installed on school grounds or at any instructional school building operated in a non-campus setting**;

§ 4. Subdivision 6-c of section 3602 of the education law, as amended by chapter 1 of the laws of 2013, and paragraph b as amended by section 9 of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

6-c. a. Building aid for metal detectors, [~~and~~] **security cameras,** safety devices for electrically operated partitions, room dividers and doors**, and exterior master key boxes**. In addition to the apportionments payable to a school district pursuant to subdivision six of this section, the commissioner is hereby authorized to apportion to any school district additional building aid pursuant to this subdivision for its approved expenditures in the base year for the purchase of stationary metal detectors, security cameras, safety devices for electrically operated partitions and room dividers required pursuant to section four hundred nine-f of this chapter, **exterior master key boxes required pursuant to section four hundred nine-o of this chapter,** or other secu-

rity devices approved by the commissioner that increase the safety of students and school personnel, provided, however, that funds apportioned to school districts pursuant to this section shall not supplant funds for existing district expenditures or for existing contractual obligations of the district for stationary metal detectors, security cameras, partition and room divider safety devices, **exterior master key boxes,** or security devices. Portable or hand held metal detectors shall not be eligible for aid pursuant to this subdivision. Such additional aid shall equal the product of the building aid ratio computed for use in the current year pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision six of this section and the actual approved expenditures incurred in the base year pursuant to this subdivision, provided that the limitations on cost allowances prescribed by paragraph a of subdivision six of this section shall not apply. The commissioner shall annually prescribe a special cost allowance for metal detectors, [~~and~~] security cameras, **and exterior master key boxes,** and the approved expenditures shall not exceed such cost allowance. The commissioner shall annually prescribe a special cost allowance for partition and room divider safety devices, and the approved expenditures shall not exceed such cost allowance.

b. For projects approved by the commissioner authorized to receive additional building aid pursuant to this subdivision for the purchase of stationary metal detectors, security cameras**, exterior master key boxes,** or other security devices approved by the commissioner that increase the safety of students and school personnel, provided that for purposes of this paragraph such other security devices shall be limited to electronic security systems and hardened doors, and provided that for projects approved by the commissioner on or after the first day of July two thousand thirteen such additional aid shall equal the product of (i) the building aid ratio computed for use in the current year pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision six of this section plus ten percentage points, except that in no case shall this amount exceed one hundred percent, and (ii) the actual approved expenditures incurred in the base year pursuant to this subdivision, provided that the limitations on cost allowances prescribed by paragraph a of subdivision six of this section shall not apply, and provided further that any projects aided under this paragraph must be included in a district's school safety plan. The commissioner shall annually prescribe a special cost allowance for metal detectors, [~~and~~] security cameras, **and exterior master key boxes,** and the approved expenditures shall not exceed such cost allowance.

§ 5. This act shall take effect the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall become a law.