S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

10803

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 21, 2010

Introduced by M. of A. ALFANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BARRA, CONTE, FITZPATRICK, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a regional cost index related to tuition assistance program awards

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration. The legislature hereby finds and declares that providing an affordable college education to the state's citizens is necessary to ensuring a vibrant state economy. The tuition assistance program has proven to be an invaluable resource to students in their attempt to pay for college.

Further, the legislature finds that cost of living expenses vary greatly in the various regions of the state.

S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 667 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph e to read as follows:

E. REGIONAL COST INDEX. (I) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION REGIONS ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS: CAPITAL REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF ALBANY, COLUMBIA, GREENE, RENSSELAER, SARATOGA, SCHENECTADY, WARREN AND WASHINGTON; CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF CAYUGA, CORTLAND, ONONDAGA, AND OSWEGO; FINGER LAKES REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF GENESEE, LIVINGSTON, MONROE, ONTARIO, ORLEANS, SENECA, WAYNE, WYOMING AND YATES; HUDSON VALLEY REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF DUTCHESS, ORANGE, PUTNAM, ROCKLAND, SULLIVAN, ULSTER AND WESTCHESTER; LONG ISLAND REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF NASSAU AND SUFFOLK; MOHAWK VALLEY REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF FULTON, HERKIMER, MADISON, MONTGOMERY, ONEIDA AND SCHOHARIE; NEW YORK CITY REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF BRONX, KINGS, NEW YORK, QUEENS AND RICHMOND; NORTH COUNTRY REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF CLINTON, ESSEX, FRANKLIN, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, LEWIS AND ST. LAWRENCE; SOUTHERN TIER REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF BROOME, CHEMUNG, CHENANGO, DELAWARE, OTSEGO, SCHUYLER, STEUBEN, TIOGA AND TOMPKINS; AND WESTERN NEW YORK REGION SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNTIES OF ALLEGANY, CATTARAUGUS, CHAUTAUQUA, ERIE AND NIAGARA.

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

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(II) THE PRESIDENT SHALL ADJUST AWARDS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH A OF THIS SUBDIVISION FOR STUDENTS WHOSE PRIMARY RESIDENCE IS WITHIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONS ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: CAPITAL REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.29; CENTRAL NEW YORK REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.17; FINGER LAKES REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.23; HUDSON VALLEY REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.88; LONG ISLAND REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.80; MOHAWK VALLEY REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.00; NEW YORK CITY REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 2.95; NORTH COUNTRY REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.00; SOUTHERN TIER REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.08; AND WESTERN NEW YORK REGION - THE SUM OF THE AWARD MULTIPLIED BY 1.11.

(III) AWARDS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT EXCEED NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

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