3506

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 24, 2011

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to establishing the Empire State college savings authority

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

1 Section 1. Article 8 of the public authorities law is amended by 2 adding a new title 6-A to read as follows: 3 TITLE 6-A 4 EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY 5 SECTION 1750. SHORT TITLE. 1750-A. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATIONS. 6 7 1750-B. DEFINITIONS. 8 1750-C. EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY. 9 1750-D. EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT. 1750-E. ENROLLMENT. 10 1750-F. CONTRIBUTIONS. 11 12 1750-G. PURCHASE OF PAST CONTRIBUTIONS. 13 1750-H. BENEFITS. 1750-I. RETURN OF MONIES. 14 15 1750-J. TAX IMPLICATIONS. S 1750. SHORT TITLE. 16 THIS TITLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS 17 THE "EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY ACT". 18 S 1750-A. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATIONS. THE LEGISLATURE FINDS AND DETER-MINES THAT THE COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION IS BECOMING MORE AND 19 MORE A FINANCIAL BURDEN UNABLE TO BE BORNE BY A COLLEGE STUDENT DURING THEIR 20 COLLEGE TENURE. AS A RESULT, PARENTS OR STUDENTS ARE 21 EITHER FORCED TO 22 CRUSHING FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR INCUR HUGE AMOUNTS OF DEBT IN BEAR 23 ORDER TO OBTAIN A COLLEGE EDUCATION. WORSE YET, THESE COSTS CONTINUE TO 24 BECOME EVEN FURTHER OUT OF REACH, WITH THE COST OF THE AVERAGE COLLEGE EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets

[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09451-01-1

52 53

1 EDUCATION DOUBLING IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS OF THE LAST DECADE, DURING A 2 PERIOD OF EXTREMELY LOW INFLATION.

3 THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER FINDS AND DETERMINES THAT THE STATE OF NEW 4 YORK MUST ADVANCE TWO GOALS TO ASSIST ALL ITS CITIZENS TO MORE EASILY 5 AFFORD A COLLEGE EDUCATION. FIRST TO ASSIST NEW YORKERS TO SAVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, IN A NON-TAXABLE, RESPONSIBLE, AND PRODUC-6 7 TIVE MANNER THAT WILL NOT OVERBURDEN THE PARENTS. SECOND TO GUARANTEE NEW YORKERS WHO DO SO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM, THAT UPON THE CONCLU-SION OF THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE, THAT THEY CAN OBTAIN A FOUR YEAR, DEBT 8 9 10 FREE, HIGH QUALITY, AND COMPLETELY PAID COLLEGE EDUCATION. SUCH A 11 PREPAID COLLEGE EDUCATION WOULD ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ACROSS THE STATE AND ESPECIALLY ASSIST MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES WHO ARE NOT ELIGI-12 BLE FOR OTHER TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. 13

14 THE LEGISLATURE ADDITIONALLY FINDS AND DETERMINES, THAT THE BEST WAY 15 TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF A PREPAID COLLEGE EDUCATION PROGRAM IS TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION. SUCH 16 17 PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION WOULD ADVANCE THESE GOALS BY PROVIDING Α SOLVENT, ASSURED, AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE VEHICLE TO OFFER THE BENEFITS 18 19 SAVING FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION TO ALL NEW YORKERS. IN DOING SO, IT OF WOULD OFFER ALL NEW YORK FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO MORE EASILY FINANCE 20 21 A COLLEGE EDUCATION.

22 THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER FINDS AND DETERMINES THAT IN THIS NEW AGE OF 23 INFORMATION, THE DELIVERY OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION TO EVERY NEW YORKER WHO WANTS ONE IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR STATE. EDUCATION OPENS THE 24 25 DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY, AND THE PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION ESTABLISHED BY 26 THIS TITLE, WILL PERMIT MANY MORE PEOPLE TO NOT ONLY OPEN THAT DOOR, BUT 27 ALSO WALK THROUGH IT WITHOUT AN UNBEARABLE COST OR DEBT BURDEN THAT 28 WOULD OTHERWISE IMPAIR THEIR FUTURE.

29 S 1750-B. DEFINITIONS. 1. "PARTICIPANT" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON WHO IS 30 A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK FOR WHOSE BENEFIT CONTRIBUTIONS INTO 31 THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN MADE.

32 2. "CONTRIBUTOR" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON WHO MAKES CONTRIBUTIONS INTO33 THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF A PARTICIPANT.

34 3. "ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT" SHALL MEAN ANY ENROLLED PARTICIPANT FOR WHOM 35 ALL CONTRIBUTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-F OF THIS 36 TITLE HAVE BEEN MADE.

4. "ENROLLED PARTICIPANT" IS ANY PARTICIPANT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE
8 EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN
39 HUNDRED FIFTY-E OF THIS TITLE.

40 5. "PROGRAM BENEFITS" SHALL MEAN FREE TUITION FOR FOUR YEARS AT ANY 41 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK OR AN EQUIVALENT COLLEGE AID VOUCHER.

42 6. "EQUIVALENT COLLEGE AID VOUCHER" SHALL MEAN A STATE VOUCHER, PAID 43 ANNUALLY FOR FOUR YEARS TO A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ON BEHALF 44 OF AN ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT, WHICH IS EQUAL TO NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE 45 AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL TUITION AT A STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

46 S 1750-C. EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY. 1. THE EMPIRE STATE 47 COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY IS HEREBY CREATED. SUCH AUTHORITY SHALL BE A 48 BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC CONSTITUTING A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION. 49 THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE A BOARD. THE AUTHORITY 50 SHALL CONSIST OF NINE MEMBERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF NEW 51 YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK;

(B) THE COMPTROLLER OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK;

54 (C) A REPRESENTATIVE OF PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES APPOINTED BY 55 THE GOVERNOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE;

(D) A REPRESENTATIVE OF PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES APPOINTED BY 1 2 THE GOVERNOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE;

3 (E) A REPRESENTATIVE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND 4 CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE;

5 (F) A REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE 6 SENATE; 7

(G) A REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY; AND

8 (H) TWO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS, ONE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE AND ONE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY, WHO 9 10 SHALL BOTH BE NON-VOTING MEMBERS WHOSE COMMENTS SHALL BE ENTERED UPON ANY OFFICIAL RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS IN THE SAME MANNER AS VOTING 11 MEMBERS' COMMENTS, UNLESS OBJECTION IS RAISED BY ANY OF THE VOTING 12 MEMBERS IN WHICH CASE, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW 13 ΤO THE 14 CONTRARY, SUCH COMMENTS BY NON-VOTING MEMBERS SHALL NOT BE SO ENTERED.

15 ALL THE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EACH, WITH EACH TERM COMMENCING FROM THE FIRST DAY OF 16 17 JANUARY NEXT SUCCEEDING THEIR APPOINTMENT. EACH MEMBER SHALL HOLD OFFICE 18 UNTIL A SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND OUALIFIED.

19 2. THE CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK SHALL BE THE 20 CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND THE COMPTROLLER OF THE STATE OF 21 NEW YORK SHALL SERVE AS ITS VICE-CHAIRPERSON. THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE AUTHORITY AND SHALL BE PRIMARILY 22 THE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE 23 AUTHORITY. THE CHAIRPERSON MAY APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE 24 25 AUTHORITY, UPON ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE BOARD, TO WHICH SUCH ADMINIS-26 TRATIVE FUNCTIONS MAY BE DELEGATED. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE 27 DEEMED AN EMPLOYEE OF THE AUTHORITY, AND AS SUCH BE AN EXEMPT MANAGEMENT CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE, WHO IS A PUBLIC OFFICER AND ENTITLED TO AN ANNUAL 28 SALARY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY BOARD. 29

3. THE POWER OF SUCH CORPORATION SHALL BE VESTED IN AND EXERCISED BY 30 THE BOARD. THE PURPOSE OF THE AUTHORITY IS TO ADMINISTER THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM. SUCH PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO ASSIST NEW 31 32 YORKERS TO SAVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, IN A NON-TAXABLE, 33 RESPONSIBLE, AND PRODUCTIVE MANNER THAT WILL NOT OVERBURDEN THE PARENTS 34 AND TO GUARANTEE NEW YORKERS WHO DO SO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM, THAT 35 UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE, THAT THEY CAN OBTAIN A FOUR 36 YEAR, DEBT FREE, HIGH QUALITY, AND COMPLETELY PAID COLLEGE EDUCATION. 37

38 4. THE GOVERNING BOARD AND ITS CORPORATE EXISTENCE SHALL CONTINUE 39 UNTIL ITS EXISTENCE SHALL BE TERMINATED BY LAW. UPON THE TERMINATION OF 40 THE EXISTENCE OF THE AUTHORITY, ALL ITS RIGHTS AND PROPERTIES SHALL PASS TO AND BE VESTED IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK. SUCH BOARD MAY DELEGATE TO 41 ONE OR MORE OF ITS MEMBERS OR ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES SUCH 42 43 POWERS AND DUTIES AS IT MAY DEEM PROPER.

FOUR VOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE 44 5. TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS. A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD 45 PRESENT AT ANY MEETING AT WHICH A QUORUM IS PRESENT SHALL BE SUFFICIENT 46 47 TO PASS ANY RESOLUTION, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN THIS TITLE. ALL 48 PROPOSITIONS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY OR AFFECTING CONTRACT 49 RIGHTS OR PROPERTY SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD IN WRITING. NO RESOL-50 UTION CONTAINING SUCH A PROPOSITION SHALL PASS UNLESS IT RECEIVES APPROVAL OF AT LEAST FOUR BOARD MEMBERS IN OFFICE. 51

6. THE BOARD SHALL HOLD AT LEAST FOUR REGULAR MEETINGS EVERY YEAR. 52 THE CHAIRPERSON, OR IN HIS OR HER ABSENCE THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, OR ANY 53 FIVE MEMBERS, MAY CALL A SPECIAL MEETING BY NOTICE AS SPECIFIED BY THE 54 BOARD. ALL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ARTICLE SEVEN OF 55 56 THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW.

7. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BE ENTITLED TO NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR 1 2 SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR THEIR ACTUAL, 3 NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES. 8. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY INCONSISTENT PROVISION OF LAW, NO OFFICER, AS 4 5 DEFINED IN THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW, OR EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE, OR OF ANY MUNICIPALITY, AS DEFINED IN THE COUNTY LAW OR THE TOWN LAW, SHALL BE 6 7 DEEMED TO HAVE FORFEITED OR SHALL FORFEIT HIS OR HER PUBLIC OFFICE OR 8 ANY BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THE RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY LAW OR UNDER ANY PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM MAINTAINED BY THE STATE OR ANY OF ITS 9 10 SUBDIVISIONS BY REASON OF HIS OR HER ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP ON THE 11 AUTHORITY; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, A MEMBER WHO HOLDS SUCH OTHER PUBLIC OFFICE SHALL RECEIVE NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED 12 PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE, BUT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTU-13 14 AL, NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH SERVICES. 15 9. THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE LOCATED IN THE CITY 16 OF ALBANY. 17 10. THE COMPTROLLER MAY CONDUCT PERIODIC AUDITS OF THE AUTHORITY AND REPORT THE RESULTS OF SUCH AUDITS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE CHAIRPERSON OF 18 19 THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ASSEMBLY WAYS 20 AND MEANS COMMITTEE. 11. SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE, APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE 21 AUTHORITY MAY ENGAGE IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT, OR IN A PROFESSION OR BUSI-22 NESS. 23 24 S 1750-D. EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT. THE EMPIRE 25 STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN 26 EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT INTO WHICH ALL CONTRIB-27 UTIONS FOR A PARTICIPANT SHALL BE DEPOSITED AND FROM WHICH ALL DISBURSE-28 MENTS FOR THE PROGRAM'S PURPOSES SHALL BE MADE. THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL BE THE JOINT TRUSTEES OF THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM 29 ACCOUNT AND SHALL INVEST THE MONIES OF THE SAME SO AS TO SECURE THE 30 HIGHEST RATE OF RETURN POSSIBLE WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE SOLVENCY OF 31 32 SUCH ACCOUNT. 33 S 1750-E. ENROLLMENT. 1. THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF ANY CHILD WHO IS LESS THAN SIX YEARS OF AGE AND WHO RESIDES IN THE STATE OF NEW 34 YORK MAY ENROLL SUCH CHILD IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM 35 AS A PARTICIPANT OF SUCH PROGRAM. UPON ENROLLMENT AS A PARTICIPANT IN 36 THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM, CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE ANNUAL-37 38 LY MADE TO THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO 39 SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-F OF THIS TITLE. 40 2. THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF ANY CHILD WHO IS LESS THAN THIRTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND WHO RESIDES IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK MAY ENROLL SUCH 41 CHILD IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM AS A PARTICIPANT OF 42 43 SUCH PROGRAM. IN ORDER TO ENROLL A CHILD WHO IS LESS THAN THIRTEEN YEARS 44 OF AGE AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM, 45 SUCH CHILD, OR A CONTRIBUTOR ON SUCH CHILD'S BEHALF, SHALL PURCHASE ALL SUCH PAST CONTRIBUTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-G OF 46 47 THIS TITLE AS ARE NECESSARY TO REPLACE ALL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WOULD HAVE 48 BEEN MADE IF SUCH CHILD HAD BEEN ENROLLED ON OR BEFORE SUCH CHILD'S 49 SIXTH BIRTHDAY, AND THEREAFTER CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF SUCH CHILD 50 SHALL BE ANNUALLY MADE TO THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-F OF THIS TITLE. 51 S 1750-F. CONTRIBUTIONS. IN ORDER FOR PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE PROGRAM 52 53 BENEFITS, THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY BOARD SHALL REQUIRE 54 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MADE ON BEHALF OF SUCH PARTICIPANTS TO THE 55 EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM FOR DEPOSIT BY THE AUTHORITY IN THE 56 EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT. THE GOVERNING BOARD OF

THE AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE THE TIME AND SCHEDULE FOR THE MAKING OF 1 2 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY CONTRIBUTORS ON BEHALF OF PARTICIPANTS. SUCH 3 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE-QUARTER OF THE 4 ANNUAL TUITION FOR A STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT THE TIME SUCH 5 CONTRIBUTION IS MADE. CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE MADE ON BEHALF OF PARTIC-6 FOR NOT LESS THAN TWELVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS COMMENCING WHEN THE IPANTS 7 PARTICIPANT IS NOT OLDER THAN FIVE YEARS OF AGE. IF ANY ANNUAL CONTRIB-8 UTION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION IS NOT MADE ON BEHALF OF AN ENROLLED PARTICIPANT, THEN SUCH PARTICIPANT SHALL BE DEEMED BY THE AUTHORITY TO 9 10 BE INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY PROGRAM BENEFITS UNDER THE EMPIRE STATE 11 SAVINGS PROGRAM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SUCH PAST CONTRIBUTION IS COLLEGE 12 PURCHASED PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-G OF THIS TITLE.

S 1750-G. PURCHASE OF PAST CONTRIBUTIONS. IN ORDER FOR PARTICIPANTS 13 14 RECEIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS, THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY ΤO 15 BOARD SHALL REQUIRE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MADE ON BEHALF OF SUCH PARTICIPANTS TO THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM FOR DEPOSIT BY 16 17 THE AUTHORITY IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT. IF 18 ANY ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-F OF THIS TITLE IS NOT MADE BY A PARTICIPANT, OR A CONTRIBUTOR ON 19 BEHALF OF THE PARTICIPANT, THEN SUCH PARTICIPANT, OR A CONTRIBUTOR ON 20 21 BEHALF OF SUCH PARTICIPANT, MAY PURCHASE THE PAST ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION SO MADE AT THE AMOUNT OF ONE-QUARTER OF THE ANNUAL TUITION FOR A 22 NOT STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT THE TIME SUCH PURCHASE OF 23 THE PAST 24 CONTRIBUTION IS MADE.

25 1. UPON ENROLLMENT IN A STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW 1750-H. BENEFITS. S 26 YORK A PARTICIPANT SHALL NOTIFY SUCH COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD, OF THE FACT THAT THE 27 28 PARTICIPANT IS AN ENROLLED MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING IN THE EMPIRE STATE 29 COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM. UPON NOTIFICATION OF THE FACT THAT SUCH PARTIC-IPANT IS AN ENROLLED MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE 30 SAVINGS PROGRAM, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT WHICH SUCH PARTIC-31 32 IPANT IS ENROLLED, SHALL SEND ALL TUITION BILLS, ASSESSED AGAINST SUCH 33 PARTICIPANT FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS 34 AUTHORITY, WHEREUPON THE AUTHORITY SHALL DISBURSE FROM THE EMPIRE STATE 35 COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TUITION ASSESSED AGAINST THE PARTICIPANT TO THE UNIVERSITY 36 OR 37 COLLEGE AT WHICH THE PARTICIPANT IS SO ENROLLED IN FULL SATISFACTION OF 38 THE TUITION SO ASSESSED.

39 2. UPON ENROLLMENT IN A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WHICH IS NOT A PART OF 40 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, A PARTICIPANT SHALL NOTIFY SUCH THEPRIVATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY SUCH COLLEGE OR 41 UNIVERSITY, OF THE FACT THAT THE PARTICIPANT IS AN ENROLLED MEMBER 42 IN STANDING IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM. UPON NOTIFI-43 GOOD 44 CATION OF THE FACT THAT SUCH PARTICIPANT IS AN ENROLLED MEMBER IN GOOD 45 STANDING IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM, THE PARTICIPANT OR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AT WHICH SUCH PARTICIPANT IS ENROLLED, SHALL 46 THE 47 SEND ALL TUITION BILLS, ASSESSED AGAINST SUCH PARTICIPANT FOR THE NEXT 48 FOUR YEARS TO THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY, WHEREUPON THE 49 AUTHORITY SHALL DISBURSE FROM THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM 50 ACCOUNT AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TUITION ASSESSED 51 AGAINST A STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBA-NY, OR THE TUITION ASSESSED AGAINST THE PARTICIPANT BY SUCH PRIVATE 52 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, WHICHEVER IS LESS, AND SHALL FORWARD SUCH AMOUNT 53 54 TO THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AT WHICH THE PARTICIPANT IS SO ENROLLED. AT 55 TIME OF THE FORWARDING OF SUCH FUNDS TO SUCH COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, THE 56 THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORITY SHALL FORWARD A COPY OF THE

1 PAYMENT RECORDS TO SUCH COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO THE PARTICIPANT FOR 2 THEIR RECORDS.

3 1750-I. RETURN OF MONIES. S CONTRIBUTIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF ANY 4 PARTICIPANT MAY BE RETURNED BY THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS AUTHORI-5 TY FROM THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT TO THE CONTRIB-UTOR WHO MADE SUCH CONTRIBUTION, UPON A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE 6 AUTHORITY 7 GOVERNING BOARD, IF SUCH BOARD FINDS THAT SUCH CONTRIBUTOR, OR THE PARTICIPANT FOR WHICH THE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE, HAS A PHYSICAL, 8 MENTAL, OR FINANCIAL DISABILITY, AS DEFINED PURSUANT TO A POLICY ESTAB-9 10 LISHED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY. SUCH RETURN PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE BY THE AUTHORITY FROM THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS 11 PROGRAM ACCOUNT AND SHALL CONSTITUTE ONLY THE PRINCIPAL OF THE ORIGINAL 12 CONTRIBUTION SO MADE AND SHALL NOT INCLUDE ANY INTEREST OR INVESTMENT 13 14 INCOME THE ACCOUNT EARNED ON SUCH CONTRIBUTION. IN THE EVENT THAT THE 15 AUTHORITY RETURNS A CONTRIBUTION TO A CONTRIBUTOR OR PARTICIPANT, THE AUTHORITY SHALL NOTIFY THE PARTICIPANT AND THE PARTICIPANT'S LEGAL GUAR-16 DIAN, AND WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF SUCH NOTIFICATION BY THE 17 PARTICIPANT AND THE PARTICIPANT'S LEGAL GUARDIAN, THE PARTICIPANT, OR A 18 19 DIFFERENT CONTRIBUTOR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICIPANT, MAY REPLACE THE RETURNED CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT PENALTY INTO THE EMPIRE 20 AMOUNT OF THE 21 STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM.

22 S 1750-J. TAX IMPLICATIONS. CONTRIBUTIONS, INTEREST ON CONTRIBUTIONS, 23 INVESTMENT GROWTH IN THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ACCOUNT 24 AND PROGRAM BENEFITS SHALL NOT BE DEEMED INCOME TO EITHER THE CONTRIBU-25 TOR OR THE PARTICIPANT OF THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM NOR 26 SHALL IT BE DEEMED SUBJECT TO STATE OR LOCAL TAXES.

27 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that the Empire 28 State college savings authority shall assume operations on the first of 29 January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.