

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

5001

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 28, 2015

Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law, in relation to providing educational services aid to eligible museums, historical societies and other cultural institutions for the provision of curriculum-based educational programs for students and teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and adults enrolled in continuing education programs

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

1 Section 1. Statement of legislative findings and intent. The legisla-
2 ture finds and declares that the state of New York has the greatest
3 museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and
4 cultural arts institutions in the United States, and that these organ-
5 izations are major tourism and economic drivers with a wealth of ways to
6 engage children and adults and instill in them a lasting love of learn-
7 ing.
8 The legislature finds and declares that museums, historical societies,
9 zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and cultural arts institutions
10 attract millions of visitors each year and provide vitally important
11 instructional services to the schoolchildren of this state, and that
12 children, in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and adults enrolled
13 in continuing education programs should have broad and equal access to
14 such services.
15 The legislature finds that over 1,300 museums, historical societies,
16 zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and cultural arts institutions in
17 this state now provide instruction to over six million children, and
18 that these institutions now receive no direct state support to initiate,
19 expand and enhance these educational services through access to museum
20 collections, scholarship and virtual learning.

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

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1 The legislature finds that museums, historical societies, zoos, botan-
2 ical gardens, aquariums and cultural arts institutions, in collaboration
3 with teachers and schools, must design new and innovative museum
4 programs to address such pressing issues as science, anthropology,
5 history and arts literacy, and under-resourced schools.

6 It is the intent of the legislature that the state provide financial
7 assistance to museums, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and other
8 cultural institutions so that these major tourist attractions can extend
9 their uniquely valuable educational resources to the children and life-
10 long learners of the state.

11 S 2. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
12 "museum education act".

13 S 3. The arts and cultural affairs law is amended by adding a new
14 section 61.15 to read as follows:

15 S 61.15. EDUCATION GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS. 1. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCA-
16 TION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT, WITH CONSULTATION AND INPUT FROM
17 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL INSTITUTION COMMUNITY, A
18 MUSEUM EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM, AND SHALL AWARD, WITHIN THE AMOUNTS
19 APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, COMPETITIVE GRANTS
20 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING OR
21 IMPROVING MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MUSEUMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE
22 STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND
23 SECONDARY SCHOOLS. SUCH GRANTS SHALL BE EXPENDED TO SUPPORT THE
24 PRODUCTION OF CURRICULA, ACQUISITION OF SPECIALIZED EDUCATIONAL OR
25 INTERPRETIVE SKILLS, ACQUISITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY, AND
26 PREPARATION OF SPECIALIZED EXHIBITION OR PUBLIC PROGRAMS THAT ARE
27 TAILORED TO ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS; THE DEVEL-
28 OPMENT AND DELIVERY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, PROVISION OF
29 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION; AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT
30 AND DELIVERY OF CURRICULUM-BASED PROGRAMS IN MUSEUMS WITH COLLECTIONS.

31 2. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" SHALL MEAN: (A) A
32 NONPROFIT INSTITUTION CHARTERED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS, OR OTHERWISE
33 INCORPORATED AS A MUSEUM, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NATURE CENTER, ZOO, BOTAN-
34 IC GARDEN, ARBORETUM, OR AQUARIUM, OR A PRIVATELY OR MUNICIPALLY OPER-
35 ATED INSTITUTION THAT MEETS THE APPLICABLE REGISTRATION STANDARDS ESTAB-
36 LISHED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR MUSEUMS OR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES WITH
37 COLLECTIONS; OR

38 (B) A PRIVATE NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING
39 AN INCORPORATED INSTITUTION THE SOLE OR PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WHICH IS THE
40 SUPPORT OF MUSEUMS, HISTORIC SITES OR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES; EXCEPT THAT
41 INSTITUTIONS OPERATED BY STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL NOT
42 BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS SECTION.

43 3. THE GOVERNING BODY OR OFFICER OF AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION REQUESTING
44 A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AT SUCH
45 TIME, IN SUCH FORM AND CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION, AS THE COMMISSIONER
46 OF EDUCATION MAY REQUIRE. SUCH COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA
47 AND STANDARDS BY WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO BE AWARDED PURSUANT TO
48 THIS SECTION WILL BE EVALUATED AND GRANTS MADE TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.
49 THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS
50 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE OR
51 COLLABORATIVE GRANTS, PROVIDED THAT A SINGLE INSTITUTION SERVES AS THE
52 APPLICANT FOR SUCH A GRANT AND FOR MULTI-YEAR GRANTS.

53 4. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL AWARD GRANTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT
54 TO EXCEED THE ALLOWABLE COSTS OF THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AS DETERMINED
55 BY SUCH COMMISSIONER, PROVIDED THAT THE ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR MUSEUM
56 EDUCATION GRANTS SHALL NOT EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR

1 FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE YEARS. ALLOWABLE COSTS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED
2 NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE REASONABLE COST OF SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS,
3 MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE A
4 MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH
5 GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTITUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET OF BETWEEN TEN
6 THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR. THE
7 COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE
8 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTI-
9 TUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET OF BETWEEN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOU-
10 SAND DOLLARS AND FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR. THE COMMISSION-
11 ER OF EDUCATION WILL ALLOCATE A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
12 AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTITUTIONS WITH AN
13 OPERATING BUDGET OF BETWEEN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONE DOLLARS AND ONE
14 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE A
15 MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH
16 GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTITUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET IN EXCESS OF
17 ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR.

18 5. ON OR BEFORE MARCH FIFTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN AND ON OR
19 BEFORE MARCH FIRST OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCA-
20 TION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE FINANCE AND THE ASSEMBLY
21 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET, A REPORT
22 DETAILING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE
23 EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION BY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS, THE RELATIONSHIP OF
24 THE PROGRAMS PROVIDED TO SCHOOL CURRICULA, AND THE GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSION
25 OF FUNDS AND PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS.

26 S 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
27 law.