

S T A T E   O F   N E W   Y O R K

---

5001--D

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 28, 2015

---

Introduced by Sens. LITTLE, AKSHAR, FUNKE, LATIMER, ORTT, RANZENHOFER, SERRANO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation -- recommitted to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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 chartered by the board of regents 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 in low-income urban, suburban and rural communities

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

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

LBD10697-11-6

1 children, in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and adults enrolled  
2 in continuing education programs should have broad and equal access to  
3 such services.

4 The legislature finds that over 1,500 museums, historical societies,  
5 zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and cultural arts institutions in  
6 this state now provide instruction to over six million children, and  
7 that these institutions now receive no direct state support to initiate,  
8 expand and enhance these educational services through access to museum  
9 collections, scholarship and virtual learning.

10 The legislature finds that students living in low-income communities  
11 in urban, suburban, or rural settings benefit from having access to the  
12 type of learning provided by museums, historical societies, zoos, botan-  
13 ical gardens, aquariums and cultural arts institutions and that fair and  
14 equal access to these types of institutions will provide enhanced learn-  
15 ing opportunities to these students.

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

21 It is the intent of the legislature that the state provide financial  
22 assistance to museums, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and other  
23 cultural institutions located in low-income urban, suburban or rural  
24 communities, so that these major tourist attractions can extend their  
25 uniquely valuable educational resources to the children and lifelong  
26 learners of the state, especially those in low-income urban, suburban or  
27 rural communities, or that provide educational services to students from  
28 such communities.

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

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

33 S 61.15. EDUCATION GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS. 1. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCA-  
34 TION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT, WITH CONSULTATION AND INPUT FROM  
35 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL INSTITUTION COMMUNITY, A  
36 MUSEUM AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM, AND SHALL  
37 AWARD, WITHIN THE AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR SUCH  
38 PURPOSE, COMPETITIVE GRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR THE  
39 PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING OR IMPROVING EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MUSEUMS AND  
40 CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC  
41 AND NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. SUCH GRANTS  
42 SHALL BE EXPENDED TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION OF CURRICULA, ACQUISITION OF  
43 SPECIALIZED EDUCATIONAL OR INTERPRETIVE SKILLS, ACQUISITION AND IMPE-  
44 LEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIALIZED EXHIBITION OR  
45 PUBLIC PROGRAMS THAT ARE TAILORED TO ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND SECONDARY  
46 SCHOOL STUDENTS; THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION  
47 PROGRAMS; PROVISION OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION; AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT  
48 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF CURRICULUM-BASED PROGRAMS IN  
49 MUSEUMS WITH COLLECTIONS.

50 2. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" SHALL MEAN: (A) A  
51 NONPROFIT INSTITUTION CHARTERED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS, OR OTHERWISE  
52 INCORPORATED AS A MUSEUM, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NATURE CENTER, ZOO, BOTAN-  
53 ICAL GARDEN, ARBORETUM, AQUARIUM OR OTHER CULTURAL EDUCATION INSTITU-  
54 TION, OR A PRIVATELY OR MUNICIPALLY OPERATED INSTITUTION THAT MEETS THE  
55 APPLICABLE REGISTRATION STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
56 FOR MUSEUMS OR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES WITH COLLECTIONS, AND THAT IS

1 LOCATED IN A LOW-INCOME URBAN, SUBURBAN OR RURAL COMMUNITY OR PROVIDES  
2 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS AND ADULT LEARNERS FROM LOW-INCOME  
3 URBAN, SUBURBAN OR RURAL COMMUNITIES; OR

4 (B) A PRIVATE NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING  
5 AN INCORPORATED INSTITUTION THE SOLE OR PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WHICH IS THE  
6 SUPPORT OF MUSEUMS, HISTORIC SITES OR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES LOCATED IN A  
7 LOW-INCOME URBAN, SUBURBAN OR RURAL COMMUNITY OR THAT PROVIDES EDUCA-  
8 TIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS AND ADULT LEARNERS FROM LOW-INCOME URBAN,  
9 SUBURBAN OR RURAL COMMUNITIES; EXCEPT THAT INSTITUTIONS OPERATED BY  
10 STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE  
11 UNDER THIS SECTION.

12 3. THE GOVERNING BODY OR OFFICER OF AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION REQUESTING  
13 A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AT SUCH  
14 TIME, IN SUCH FORM AND CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION, AS THE COMMISSIONER  
15 OF EDUCATION MAY REQUIRE. SUCH COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA  
16 AND STANDARDS BY WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO BE AWARDED PURSUANT TO  
17 THIS SECTION WILL BE EVALUATED AND GRANTS MADE TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.  
18 THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS  
19 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE OR  
20 COLLABORATIVE GRANTS, PROVIDED THAT A SINGLE INSTITUTION SERVES AS THE  
21 APPLICANT FOR SUCH A GRANT AND FOR MULTI-YEAR GRANTS.

22 4. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL AWARD GRANTS, SUBJECT TO AVAIL-  
23 ABLE APPROPRIATIONS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE ALLOWABLE COSTS OF  
24 THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AS DETERMINED BY SUCH COMMISSIONER, PROVIDED  
25 THAT THE ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR MUSEUM EDUCATION GRANTS SHALL NOT EXCEED  
26 FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE YEARS.  
27 ALLOWABLE COSTS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE REASON-  
28 ABLE COST OF SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. THE  
29 COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE  
30 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTI-  
31 TUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET OF BETWEEN TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ONE  
32 HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
33 SHALL ALLOCATE A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRI-  
34 ATED FOR SUCH GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTITUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET  
35 OF BETWEEN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND ONE DOLLARS AND FIVE HUNDRED THOU-  
36 SAND DOLLARS PER YEAR. THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION WILL ALLOCATE A  
37 MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH  
38 GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTITUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET OF BETWEEN FIVE  
39 HUNDRED THOUSAND ONE DOLLARS AND ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR. THE  
40 COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE  
41 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH GRANTS TO AWARD TO INSTI-  
42 TUTIONS WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER  
43 YEAR.

44 5. ON OR BEFORE MARCH FIFTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN AND ON OR  
45 BEFORE MARCH FIRST OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCA-  
46 TION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE FINANCE AND THE ASSEMBLY  
47 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET, A REPORT  
48 DETAILING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE  
49 EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION BY ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS, THE RELATIONSHIP OF  
50 THE PROGRAMS PROVIDED TO SCHOOL CURRICULA, AND THE GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSION  
51 OF FUNDS AND PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS.

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