

1857

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 15, 2015

Introduced by Sen. DILAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to contracts for the transportation of school children

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph a of subdivision 14 of section 305 of the educa-
2 tion law, as amended by chapter 273 of the laws of 1999, is amended to
3 read as follows:
4 a. All contracts for the transportation of school children, all
5 contracts to maintain school buses owned or leased by a school district
6 that are used for the transportation of school children, all contracts
7 for mobile instructional units, and all contracts to provide, maintain
8 and operate cafeteria or restaurant service by a private food service
9 management company shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner,
10 who may disapprove a proposed contract if, in his opinion, the best
11 interests of the district will be promoted thereby. Except as provided
12 in paragraph e of this subdivision, all such contracts involving an
13 annual expenditure in excess of the amount specified for purchase
14 contracts in the bidding requirements of the general municipal law shall
15 be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, which responsibility shall
16 be determined by the board of education or the trustee of a district,
17 with power hereby vested in the commissioner to reject any or all bids
18 if, in his opinion, the best interests of the district will be promoted
19 thereby and, upon such rejection of all bids, the commissioner shall
20 order the board of education or trustee of the district to seek, obtain
21 and consider new proposals. PROVIDED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER
22 PROVISION OF THIS SUBDIVISION: (I) THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL
23 DISTRICT LOCATED IN A CITY WITH A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE
24 SHALL INCLUDE IN CONTRACTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN,
25 WHETHER AWARDED THROUGH COMPETITIVE BIDDING OR THROUGH EVALUATION OF

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

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1 PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH E
2 OF THIS SUBDIVISION, PROVISIONS FOR THE RETENTION OR PREFERENCE IN
3 HIRING OF EMPLOYEES PREVIOUSLY OR CURRENTLY PERFORMING WORK FOR EMPLOY-
4 ERS THAT HAVE BEEN OR ARE PARTIES TO SUCH CONTRACTS, IN CONNECTION WITH
5 SUCH CONTRACTS, AND PROVISIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LEVELS OF WAGES,
6 HEALTH AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND SENIORITY FOR EMPLOYEES OF SUCH
7 EMPLOYERS, IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH CONTRACTS; OR (II) THE CHANCELLOR OF
8 THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHALL PROMULGATE REGU-
9 LATIONS REQUIRING THE RETENTION OR PREFERENCE IN HIRING OF EMPLOYEES
10 PREVIOUSLY OR CURRENTLY PERFORMING WORK FOR EMPLOYERS THAT HAVE BEEN OR
11 ARE PARTIES TO SUCH CONTRACTS, IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH CONTRACTS, AND
12 PROVISIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LEVELS OF WAGES, HEALTH AND RETIRE-
13 MENT BENEFITS AND SENIORITY FOR EMPLOYEES OF SUCH EMPLOYERS, IN
14 CONNECTION WITH SUCH CONTRACTS. All proposals for such transportation,
15 maintenance, mobile instructional units, or cafeteria and restaurant
16 service shall be in such form as the commissioner may prescribe. Adver-
17 tisement for bids shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers desig-
18 nated by the board of education or trustee of the district having gener-
19 al circulation within the district for such purpose. Such advertisement
20 shall contain a statement of the time when and place where all bids
21 received pursuant to such advertisement will be publicly opened and read
22 either by the school authorities or by a person or persons designated by
23 them. All bids received shall be publicly opened and read at the time
24 and place so specified. At least five days shall elapse between the
25 first publication of such advertisement and the date so specified for
26 the opening and reading of bids. The requirement for competitive bidding
27 shall not apply to an award of a contract for the transportation of
28 pupils or a contract for mobile instructional units, if such award is
29 based on an evaluation of proposals in response to a request for
30 proposals pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivision. The requirement
31 for competitive bidding shall not apply to annual, biennial, or trienni-
32 al extensions of a contract nor shall the requirement for competitive
33 bidding apply to quadrennial or quinquennial year extensions of a
34 contract involving transportation of pupils, maintenance of school buses
35 or mobile instructional units secured either through competitive bidding
36 or through evaluation of proposals in response to a request for
37 proposals pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivision, when such exten-
38 sions (1) are made by the board of education or the trustee of a
39 district, under rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner,
40 and, (2) do not extend the original contract period beyond five years
41 from the date cafeteria and restaurant service commenced thereunder and
42 in the case of contracts for the transportation of pupils, for the main-
43 tenance of school buses or for mobile instructional units, that such
44 contracts may be extended, except that power is hereby vested in the
45 commissioner, in addition to his existing statutory authority to approve
46 or disapprove transportation or maintenance contracts, (i) to reject any
47 extension of a contract beyond the initial term thereof if he finds that
48 amount to be paid by the district to the contractor in any year of such
49 proposed extension fails to reflect any decrease in the regional consum-
50 er price index for the N.Y., N.Y.-Northeastern, N.J. area, based upon
51 the index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) during the preceding twelve
52 month period; and (ii) to reject any extension of a contract after ten
53 years from the date transportation or maintenance service commenced
54 thereunder, or mobile instructional units were first provided, if in his
55 opinion, the best interests of the district will be promoted thereby.
56 Upon such rejection of any proposed extension, the commissioner may

1 order the board of education or trustee of the district to seek, obtain
2 and consider bids pursuant to the provisions of this section. The board
3 of education or the trustee of a school district electing to extend a
4 contract as provided herein, may, in its discretion, increase the amount
5 to be paid in each year of the contract extension by an amount not to
6 exceed the regional consumer price index increase for the N.Y.,
7 N.Y.-Northeastern, N.J. area, based upon the index for all urban
8 consumers (CPI-U), during the preceding twelve month period, provided it
9 has been satisfactorily established by the contractor that there has
10 been at least an equivalent increase in the amount of his cost of opera-
11 tion, during the period of the contract.
12 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.