

STATE OF NEW YORK

1676

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 10, 2017

Introduced by Sens. LITTLE, AKSHAR, ORTT, RANZENHOFER -- 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 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
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 1,500 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,

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

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1 expand and enhance these educational services through access to museum
2 collections, scholarship and virtual learning.

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

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

14 It is the intent of the legislature that the state provide financial
15 assistance to museums, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and other
16 cultural institutions located in low-income urban, suburban or rural
17 communities, so that these major tourist attractions can extend their
18 uniquely valuable educational resources to the children and lifelong
19 learners of the state, especially those in low-income urban, suburban or
20 rural communities, or that provide educational services to students from
21 such communities.

22 § 2. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
23 "museum education act".

24 § 3. The arts and cultural affairs law is amended by adding a new
25 section 61.15 to read as follows:

26 § 61.15. Education grants for museums. 1. The commissioner of educa-
27 tion shall develop and implement, with consultation and input from
28 representatives from the museum and cultural institution community, a
29 museum and cultural organization education grant program, and shall
30 award, within the amounts appropriated from the general fund for such
31 purpose, competitive grants in accordance with this section for the
32 purposes of establishing or improving education programs in museums and
33 cultural organizations designed to improve student performance in public
34 and nonpublic elementary, middle and secondary schools. Such grants
35 shall be expended to support the production of curricula, acquisition of
36 specialized educational or interpretive skills, acquisition and imple-
37 mentation of technology, and preparation of specialized exhibition or
38 public programs that are tailored to elementary, middle and secondary
39 school students; the development and delivery of continuing education
40 programs; provision of student transportation; and other programs that
41 support the development and delivery of curriculum-based programs in
42 museums with collections.

43 2. As used in this section, "eligible institution" shall mean: (a) a
44 nonprofit institution chartered by the board of regents, or otherwise
45 incorporated as a museum, historical society, nature center, zoo, botan-
46 ical garden, arboretum, aquarium or other cultural education institu-
47 tion, or a privately or municipally operated institution that meets the
48 applicable registration standards established by the board of regents
49 for museums or historical societies with collections, and that is
50 located in a low-income urban, suburban or rural community or provides
51 educational services to students and adult learners from low-income
52 urban, suburban or rural communities; or

53 (b) a private not-for-profit community based organization, including
54 an incorporated institution the sole or primary purpose of which is the
55 support of museums, historic sites or historical societies located in a
56 low-income urban, suburban or rural community or that provides educa-

1 tional services to students and adult learners from low-income urban,
2 suburban or rural communities; except that institutions operated by
3 state or federal government agencies shall not be considered eligible
4 under this section.

5 3. The governing body or officer of an eligible institution requesting
6 a grant pursuant to this section shall submit an application at such
7 time, in such form and containing such information, as the commissioner
8 of education may require. Such commissioner shall establish the criteria
9 and standards by which applications for grants to be awarded pursuant to
10 this section will be evaluated and grants made to eligible institutions.
11 The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate regulations
12 for the development and submission of applications for cooperative or
13 collaborative grants, provided that a single institution serves as the
14 applicant for such a grant and for multi-year grants.

15 4. The commissioner of education shall award grants, subject to avail-
16 able appropriations, in an amount not to exceed the allowable costs of
17 the eligible institution as determined by such commissioner, provided
18 that the allowable costs for museum education grants shall not exceed
19 five hundred thousand dollars per year for a maximum of three years.
20 Allowable costs shall include, but need not be limited to, the reason-
21 able cost of salaries and fringe benefits, materials and equipment. The
22 commissioner of education shall allocate a minimum of twenty-five
23 percent of the amount appropriated for such grants to award to insti-
24 tutions with an operating budget of between ten thousand dollars and one
25 hundred fifty thousand dollars per year. The commissioner of education
26 shall allocate a minimum of twenty-five percent of the amount appropri-
27 ated for such grants to award to institutions with an operating budget
28 of between one hundred fifty thousand one dollars and five hundred thou-
29 sand dollars per year. The commissioner of education will allocate a
30 minimum of twenty-five percent of the amount appropriated for such
31 grants to award to institutions with an operating budget of between five
32 hundred thousand one dollars and one million dollars per year. The
33 commissioner of education shall allocate a minimum of twenty-five
34 percent of the amount appropriated for such grants to award to insti-
35 tutions with an operating budget in excess of one million dollars per
36 year.

37 5. On or before March fifteenth, two thousand nineteen and on or
38 before March first of each year thereafter, the commissioner of educa-
39 tion shall submit to the chairs of the senate finance and the assembly
40 ways and means committees, and the director of the budget, a report
41 detailing the implementation of the provisions of this section, the
42 extent of participation by eligible institutions, the relationship of
43 the programs provided to school curricula, and the geographic dispersion
44 of funds and participating institutions.

45 § 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
46 law.