

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1676

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 10, 2017

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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.