STATE OF NEW YORK

4142

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 3, 2017

Introduced by Sen. TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to enacting the community needs integrity act and establishing the community need review commission

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "community needs integrity act".

§ 2. The legislative law is amended by adding a new article 6-B to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6-B

COMMUNITY NEED REVIEW COMMISSION

Section 95. Community need review commission.
96. Powers and duties of the commission.
97. Community needs integrity plan.

§ 95. Community need review commission. There is hereby established a community need review commission which shall consist of twelve members, to be appointed as follows: three members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, three members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, three members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate and three members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. Each member of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the official who appointed him or her. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties pursuant to this article.

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

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§ 96. Powers and duties of the commission. The community need review commission, in cooperation with the attorney general and the comptroller, shall review and oversee the distribution of member item funds set forth in the state budget. In carrying out this objective, such commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. to safeguard the integrity and openness of the process of determining how member items shall be distributed;

2. to ensure that the public has access to such process;

3. to establish guidelines for prioritizing and ranking requests for member items;

4. to provide a mechanism whereby requests for member items are made available to the public on or before March seventeenth of each year;

5. to provide a mechanism whereby final funding decisions regarding the distribution of member items are made available to the public on or before April eighth of each year; and

6. to develop a community needs integrity plan consistent with the provisions of section ninety-seven of this article.

§ 97. Community needs integrity plan. The community need review commission shall establish a community needs integrity plan. Such plan shall provide for the following:

1. fair distribution of member item funds to all regions of the state;

2. member item funds be awarded to programs based on the need, quality and merit of the program or project;

3. member items be set forth in a detailed manner, open to the public with specific references to the program or project being funded;

4. sanctions for member item funds inappropriately disbursed;

5. mechanisms to recoup inappropriately disbursed member item funds;

6. any other provision the commission deems appropriate.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.