

STATE OF NEW YORK

9869--A

IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2020

Introduced by M. of A. JEAN-PIERRE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing a New York state residential property tax relief act for public education aid apportionment for certain school years; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York
2 state residential real property tax relief act for public education."

3 § 2. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that the current
4 primary and secondary education funding system, which is based largely
5 upon real property taxation, is antiquated and creates serious dispari-
6 ties in educational opportunity and inequities with regard to distrib-
7 ution of the system's financial burden. The quality of education that
8 children receive varies widely by geographic region, as does the oppor-
9 tunity for children to participate in extracurricular activities. In
10 addition, taxpayers throughout the state receive real property tax bills
11 from their local school districts based on the value of their homes,
12 which is subject to multiple factors beyond their control, rather than
13 their financial ability to pay, creating serious regional distortions in
14 the relative cost of living. The legislature further finds that our
15 children should not be penalized based upon the geographic location of
16 their home, nor should financial support for the educational system fall
17 more heavily on those who are less able to bear the burden. The legisla-
18 ture therefore must take immediate action to provide relief to those
19 areas most impacted by these disparities through the residential proper-
20 ty tax relief aid determined through a residential property tax relief
21 aid formula. The legislature further orders an education funding study
22 to examine long-term funding alternatives for the state primary and
23 secondary educational system that allows all children throughout the
24 state to receive the same educational opportunities.

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

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§ 3. Section 3602 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 42 to read as follows:

42. New York state residential property tax relief act for public education. a. Eligibility. (1) Each school district shall be eligible to receive a New York state residential property tax relief act for public education aid apportionment in the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year, which shall equal the greater of: (i) the sum of the tax equalization aid apportionment, the tax limitation ceiling aid apportionment, and the wealth adjusted tax rate aid apportionment; or (ii) the residential property tax levy reduction apportionment.

(2) Each school district shall be eligible to receive a New York state residential property tax relief act for public education aid apportionment in the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand twenty-three school year in the same amount as in the base year.

(3) Each school district shall be eligible to receive a New York state residential property tax relief act for public education aid apportionment in the two thousand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-four school year in an amount equal to the New York state residential property tax relief act for public education aid apportionment in the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand twenty-three school year multiplied by one and seven hundred sixty-nine ten-thousandths (1.0769).

b. Purpose. Funds allocated under this subdivision shall be solely used for the purpose of reducing the residential tax levy defined in subparagraph one of paragraph a of subdivision sixteen of this section.

c. Tax equalization aid apportionment. (1) School districts other than districts within a city with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more shall be eligible for a tax equalization aid apportionment if: (i) the combined wealth ratio computed pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision three of this section is less than one; and (ii) the expense per pupil defined pursuant to paragraph f of subdivision one of this section is greater than the statewide average expense per pupil. For the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year, for the purpose of computing aid pursuant to this subdivision, the statewide average expense per pupil shall be sixteen thousand two hundred fifty dollars.

(2) The tax equalization formula factor shall be equal to the positive difference of the quotient arrived at when dividing the approved operating expense defined pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of this section by total aidable pupil units defined pursuant to paragraph e of subdivision one of this section minus the quotient arrived at when dividing the total real property tax levy by total aidable pupil units defined pursuant to paragraph e of subdivision one of this section.

(3) For eligible school districts, the tax equalization formula aid apportionment shall be equal to the product of: (i) the tax equalization formula factor multiplied by (ii) the total aidable pupil units multiplied by (iii) the regional cost index defined pursuant to paragraph a of subdivision four of this section multiplied by (iv) twenty-five hundredths (.25).

d. Tax limitation ceiling aid apportionment. (1) School districts other than districts within a city with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more shall be eligible for a tax limitation ceiling aid apportionment if: (i) the combined wealth ratio is less than two and five-tenths (2.5); and (ii) the tax effort ratio defined pursuant to subparagraph three of paragraph a of subdivision sixteen of this section is greater than the statewide average tax effort ratio. For the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year, for the

1 purpose of computing aid pursuant to this subdivision, the statewide tax
2 average effort ratio shall be two thousand eight hundred fourteen
3 hundred thousandths (0.02814).

4 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, the tax ceiling shall be equal
5 to the product of (i) twenty-five dollars (\$25) multiplied by (ii) the
6 quotient arrived at when dividing the tax effort ratio by the state
7 average tax effort ratio.

8 (3) The ceiling formula factor shall be equal to:

9 (i) thirty-three dollars and eleven cents (\$33.11) for any school
10 district with a tax ceiling greater than or equal to twenty-five dollars
11 but less than forty dollars;

12 (ii) forty-five dollars and sixty cents (\$45.60) for any school
13 district with a tax ceiling greater than or equal to forty dollars but
14 less than sixty dollars; and

15 (iii) forty-seven dollars and fifty-two cents (\$47.52) for any school
16 district with a tax ceiling greater than or equal to sixty dollars.

17 (4) For eligible school districts, tax limitation ceiling aid appor-
18 tionment shall be equal to the product of: (i) the ceiling formula
19 factor, multiplied by (ii) the regional cost index, multiplied by (iii)
20 total aidable pupil units.

21 e. Wealth adjusted aid apportionment. (1) School districts other than
22 districts within a city with a population of one hundred twenty-five
23 thousand or more shall be eligible for a wealth adjusted aid appor-
24 tionment if: (i) the combined wealth ratio is less than two and five tenths
25 (2.5); and (ii) the quotient arrived at when dividing total general fund
26 expenditure by the total aidable pupil units expressed per one thousand
27 dollars is greater than the statewide average of such calculation. For
28 the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year, for
29 the purpose of computing aid pursuant to this subdivision, the statewide
30 total general fund expenditure divided by total aidable pupil units
31 expressed per one thousand dollars shall be twenty dollars and five
32 cents.

33 (2) For eligible school districts, the wealth adjusted tax rate aid
34 apportionment shall be equal to the product of: (i) seven hundred
35 dollars (\$700) multiplied by (ii) total aidable pupils units multiplied
36 by (iii) the state sharing ratio computed pursuant to paragraph g of
37 subdivision three of this section.

38 f. "Residential real property tax levy reduction apportionment." (1)
39 School districts other than districts with a city with a population of
40 one hundred twenty-five thousand or more, shall be eligible for residen-
41 tial real property tax levy if: (i) the residential tax levy calculation
42 is equal to or greater than fifty percent; and (ii) the combined wealth
43 ratio is less than two and five-tenths (2.5).

44 (2) "Residential tax levy calculation" shall equal the quotient
45 arrived at when dividing the residential real property tax levy defined
46 pursuant to subparagraph one of paragraph a of subdivision sixteen of
47 this section divided by the total actual expenditures for the year
48 commencing in the calendar year one year prior to the calendar year in
49 which the base year began.

50 (3) For eligible school districts, the "residential real property tax
51 levy reduction apportionment" shall mean the product of: (i) the posi-
52 tive difference, if any, between the residential tax levy calculation
53 defined pursuant to this subparagraph minus fifty percent multiplied by
54 (ii) the residential real property tax levy.

55 g. Method of payment. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
56 the contrary, the New York state residential property tax relief act for

1 public education aid shall be paid pursuant to section thirty-six
2 hundred nine-i of this part.

3 h. Definition. As used in this subdivision, "total real property tax
4 levy" shall mean the total real property tax levy specified in the
5 school district budget for the year commencing in the calendar year two
6 years prior to the calendar year in which the base year began. The final
7 update of such data shall be reported by the commissioner of taxation
8 and finance to the commissioner by February fifteenth of the base year.
9 The commissioner of taxation and finance shall adopt regulations as
10 appropriate to assure the appropriate collection, classification and
11 reporting of such data for the purposes of paying state aid to the
12 schools.

13 § 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 3609-a of the
14 education law, as amended by section 32 of part B of chapter 57 of the
15 laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

16 The GSPS appropriation shall be used to support payments made pursuant
17 to this section, plus apportionments made pursuant to section seven
18 hundred one, seven hundred eleven, seven hundred fifty-one, seven
19 hundred fifty-three, thirty-two hundred two, thirty-six hundred nine-b,
20 thirty-six hundred forty-one and forty-four hundred five of this chap-
21 ter, any other applicable allocations made pursuant to this chapter, but
22 not paid pursuant to the schedule prescribed by this section or sections
23 thirty-six hundred nine-b, thirty-six hundred nine-d ~~[ex]~~, thirty-six
24 hundred nine-f or thirty-six hundred nine-i of this ~~[article]~~ part; plus
25 any unconsolidated law provisions which apply to programs funded from
26 such appropriation; plus any sums paid out upon audit of the state comp-
27 troller as final adjustments of apportionments originally claimed and
28 payable pursuant to this subdivision in prior school years; plus sums
29 paid out as prior year adjustments, to the extent an allowance was
30 included in such appropriation for such purpose. Any apportionments
31 provided by this chapter shall be paid in accordance with this section
32 unless specifically exempted.

33 § 5. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3609-i to
34 read as follows:

35 § 3609-i. Moneys apportioned to school districts for reimbursement of
36 apportionments pursuant to the New York state residential property tax
37 relief act for public education. 1. As used in this section, "school
38 district" shall mean a public school district eligible for an apportion-
39 ment of aid under subdivision four of section thirty-six hundred two of
40 this article.

41 2. Moneys apportioned to school districts for reimbursement of appor-
42 tionments pursuant to the New York state residential property tax relief
43 act for public education pursuant to subdivision forty-two of section
44 thirty-six hundred two of this part shall be disbursed as follows:

45 a. On or after the first business day of July of each school year,
46 commencing July first, two thousand twenty-one, a school district shall
47 be paid an amount equal to fifty percent of the payments on October
48 first of the current school year.

49 b. The remaining balance shall be paid after February first, provided
50 that the amounts paid on or before February first shall not be subject
51 to recalculation.

52 c. No payment may be made pursuant to this subdivision until the
53 amount for each school district is certified by the commissioner of
54 taxation and finance and transmitted to the commissioner. Such certif-
55 ication shall be made on or before January first so as to facilitate
56 payments to be made pursuant to this section.

1 3. Moneys paid pursuant to this section shall be payable to the treas-
2 urer of each city school district, and the treasurer of each union free
3 school district and of each central school district and of each other
4 school district, if there be a treasurer, otherwise to the collector or
5 other disbursing officer of such district, who shall apply for and
6 receive the same as soon as payable.

7 4. Any payment to a school district pursuant to this section shall be
8 general receipts of the district and shall be used solely for the
9 reduction of the residential tax levy.

10 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
11 payments made to school districts under this section shall be considered
12 general aid payments made pursuant to section thirty-six hundred nine-a
13 of this part.

14 6. It is the intent of the governor to submit and of the legislature
15 to enact for each fiscal year after the two thousand twenty-one--two
16 thousand twenty-two fiscal year in an annual budget bill an appropri-
17 ation in the amount to be paid to school districts pursuant to subdivi-
18 sion forty-two of section thirty-six hundred two of this part.

19 § 6. Paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section 1608 of the education
20 law, as amended by chapter 514 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 a. Each year, commencing with the proposed budget for the two thou-
23 sand--two thousand one school year, the trustee or board of trustees
24 shall prepare a property tax report card, pursuant to regulations of the
25 commissioner, and shall make it publicly available by transmitting it to
26 local newspapers of general circulation, appending it to copies of the
27 proposed budget made publicly available as required by law, making it
28 available for distribution at the annual meeting, and otherwise dissem-
29 inating it as required by the commissioner. Such report card shall
30 include: (i) the amount of total spending and total estimated school tax
31 levy that would result from adoption of the proposed budget and the
32 percentage increase or decrease in total spending and total school tax
33 levy from the school district budget for the preceding school year; and
34 (ii) the district's tax levy limit determined pursuant to section two
35 thousand twenty-three-a of this title, and the estimated school tax
36 levy, excluding any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant
37 to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph i of subdivision two of
38 section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, that would result
39 from adoption of the proposed budget; and (iii) the projected enrollment
40 growth for the school year for which the budget is prepared, and the
41 percentage change in enrollment from the previous year; and (iv) the
42 percentage increase in the consumer price index, as defined in paragraph
43 c of this subdivision; and (v) the projected amount of the unappropri-
44 ated unreserved fund balance that will be retained if the proposed budg-
45 et is adopted, the projected amount of the reserved fund balance, the
46 projected amount of the appropriated fund balance, the percentage of the
47 proposed budget that the unappropriated unreserved fund balance repres-
48 ents, the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance retained in the
49 school district budget for the preceding school year, and the percentage
50 of the school district budget for the preceding school year that the
51 actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents~~], and a sched-~~
52 ~~ule of reserve funds, setting forth the name of each reserve fund, a~~
53 ~~description of its purpose, the balance as of the close of the third~~
54 ~~quarter of the current school district fiscal year and a brief statement~~
55 ~~explaining any plans for the use of each such reserve fund for the ensu-~~
56 ~~ing fiscal year];~~ and (vi) the amount of the New York state residential

property tax relief act for public education amount used to reduce the residential tax levy for the ensuing fiscal year.

§ 7. Paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section 1716 of the education law, as amended by chapter 514 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

a. Each year, commencing with the proposed budget for the two thousand--two thousand one school year, the board of education shall prepare a property tax report card, pursuant to regulations of the commissioner, and shall make it publicly available by transmitting it to local newspapers of general circulation, appending it to copies of the proposed budget made publicly available as required by law, making it available for distribution at the annual meeting, and otherwise disseminating it as required by the commissioner. Such report card shall include: (i) the amount of total spending and total estimated school tax levy that would result from adoption of the proposed budget and the percentage increase or decrease in total spending and total school tax levy from the school district budget for the preceding school year; and (ii) the district's tax levy limit determined pursuant to section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, and the estimated school tax levy, excluding any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph i of subdivision two of section two thousand twenty-three-a of this title, that would result from adoption of the proposed budget; and (iii) the projected enrollment growth for the school year for which the budget is prepared, and the percentage change in enrollment from the previous year; and (iv) the percentage increase in the consumer price index, as defined in paragraph c of this subdivision; and (v) the projected amount of the unappropriated unreserved fund balance that will be retained if the proposed budget is adopted, the projected amount of the reserved fund balance, the projected amount of the appropriated fund balance, the percentage of the proposed budget that the unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents, the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance retained in the school district budget for the preceding school year~~, a schedule of reserve funds, setting forth the name of each reserve fund, a description of its purpose, the balance as of the close of the third quarter of the current school district fiscal year and a brief statement explaining any plans for the use of each such reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year and the percentage of the school district budget for the preceding school year that the actual unappropriated unreserved fund balance represents~~; and (vi) the amount of the New York state residential property tax relief act for public education amount used to reduce the residential tax levy for the ensuing fiscal year.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to school years commencing on and after July 1, 2021; provided that the provisions of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed on July 1, 2024. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.