AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing COVID related projects for smart school grants

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

Section 1. Subparagraph 4 of paragraph a of subdivision 16 of section 3641 of the education law, as added by section 2 of part C of chapter 56 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

(4) "Smart schools project" shall mean a capital project as set forth and defined in subparagraphs five, six, seven, eight or eleven of this paragraph.

§ 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 16 of section 3641 of the education law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 11 to read as follows:

(11) "COVID related project" shall mean a capital project as set forth and defined in subparagraph five, six, seven or eight of this paragraph which is developed to address any restriction, directive, executive order and regulation issued to school districts in regards to safety precautions for the reopening of schools during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) state disaster emergency, as declared pursuant to executive order number two hundred two. Such projects may include, but are not limited to, social distancing installations on busses and classrooms, technical safety equipment such as thermometers and technology to enhance distance learning within school buildings, other public places and a student’s home.

§ 3. Paragraph b of subdivision 16 of section 3641 of the education law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 5 to read as follows:

(5) For projects identified as "COVID related projects", the smart schools review board shall expedite the review of the investment plan. The review board shall issue an approval, rejection or return for modification any such plans within forty-five days of receiving such plan. The review board shall review and approve, reject or return for modification any amendments to the original plan within thirty days of receiving such amended plan.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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