STATE OF NEW YORK

8991

IN SENATE

September 18, 2020

Introduced by Sen. SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the COVID-19 family relief act; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Statement of legislative intent. The legislature recognizes the financial hardship placed on families during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a direct result of the pandemic, school districts have developed re-opening plans based on the resources and needs of the community. Some districts are providing all remote instruction, some are offering a combination of in-person instruction days and the remaining days of on-line instruction, and still others are providing for a full day in-person instruction. The intent of this act is to provide financial assistance to low and middle income families for additional childcare expenses directly related to the schedule of the local school district.

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 529-c to read as follows:

§ 529-c. COVID-19 family relief act. 1. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law to the contrary, within amounts allocated to the state of New York by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-136) that have not otherwise been obligated, the office of children and family services shall make payment for child care services directly to child care providers, as defined in section three hundred ninety of the social services law, or as defined in section 20-800 of the administrative code of the city of New York, if a child's attendance at such program is directly related to the schedule of the local school district due to the novel coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19).

2. Funds made pursuant to this section shall be equitably distributed among all regions of the state and be prioritized based on a parent or guardian's status as an essential employee and the ability of such parent or guardian to pay for additional childcare services.

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

LBD17256-01-0

3. The office of children and family services shall create an application process for such funding and shall promulgate rules and regulations for awarding and distributing funding pursuant to this section.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire October 1, 2021 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.