STATE OF NEW YORK

5872

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 1, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enhancing support and services for students with disabilities for postsecondary success

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6457 to read as follows:

§ 6457. Enhancing support and services for students with disabilities postsecondary success. 1. Subject to an appropriation, the commissioner shall allocate funds available for enhancing support and services for students with disabilities in New York state degree-granting colleges and universities so they can succeed in their education. Such grants shall be awarded to institutions of the state university of New York and institutions of the city university of New York, and the commissioner shall enter into contracts with degree-granting colleges and universities in New York state that are currently funded under the tuition assistance program under article fourteen of this chapter for the purposes of providing additional services and expenses to expand opportunities for students with disabilities.

2. For the purposes of this section "students with disabilities" shall mean students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity, a record of such impairment, or being regarded as having such impairment and who are enrolled in a degree-granting institution.

3. (a) Funds appropriated in the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two academic year and thereafter for the purpose of this initiative shall be allocated upon successful application through a process developed by the commissioner, proportionally to each degree-granting institution of higher education identified in subdivision one of this

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

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section which shall be determined based upon the data submitted annually by the institution to the commissioner.

(b) Funds shall be awarded to eligible institutions directly and not through entities that do not directly enroll students.

4. Funds shall be awarded through a formula in equal amount per identified student with a disability to each institution eligible for funding. The number of students with a disability at each institution shall be determined based upon the data submitted annually by the institution to the commissioner.

5. Moneys made available to institutions under this section shall be spent for the following purposes:

(a) to supplement funding for support and accommodation of students with disabilities, to expand support and services provided at the state university of New York, the city university of New York, and other degree-granting higher education institutions;

(b) to support summer college preparation programs to assist individuals with disabilities in transitioning to college, and prepare them to navigate campus facilities and systems;

(c) to provide full and part-time faculty and staff at the state university of New York, the city university of New York, and other degree-granting higher education institutions with disability training; and

(d) to improve the identification process of individuals with disabilities and enhance data collection capabilities at the state university of New York, the city university of New York, and other degree-granting higher education institutions.

6. Eligible institutions shall file an application for approval by the commissioner no later than the first of May each year demonstrating a need for such funding, including, but not limited to, how the funding would be used and how many students with disabilities would be assisted with such funding. The commissioner shall review all applications for compliance with all eligibility criteria and other requirements set forth in regulations of the commissioner. Successful applicants shall be funded as provided in subdivision four of this section.

7. No funds pursuant to this section shall be made available to support the regular academic programs of any institution participating in this program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.