

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1377

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 11, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring school districts to establish a medical hardship waiver policy to grant or deny permission to certain students to use established pick-up and drop-off points on established bus routes

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 3635 of the education law is  
2 amended by adding a new paragraph h to read as follows:

3 h. (i) The board of education or trustees of each school district and  
4 the city school district of New York shall develop a medical hardship  
5 waiver policy to grant or deny permission to children attending grades  
6 kindergarten through eight who live within two miles from the school  
7 which they legally attend and for children attending grades nine through  
8 twelve who live within three miles from the school which they legally  
9 attend to use already established pick-up and/or drop-off points on  
10 already established bus routes.

11 (ii) The medical hardship waiver policy established pursuant to  
12 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall include:

13 (1) a formal request procedure for a parent or guardian to request a  
14 medical hardship waiver based upon a serious medical condition suffered  
15 by the child, parent or guardian and the resulting hardship in trans-  
16 porting the child to and/or from school;

17 (2) a requirement for submission of medical documentation, certified  
18 by a physician or other duly authorized health care provider, of a diag-  
19 nosis of a serious medical condition with a description of the limita-  
20 tions resulting from such diagnosis and the approximate duration that  
21 such limitations will be suffered by the child, parent or guardian;

22 (3) a requirement for submission of documentation of the nature of the  
23 hardship including the inability of the child to safely travel to and/or

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

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1 from school without the requested medical hardship waiver or of the  
2 inability of the parent or guardian to safely transport the child to  
3 and/or from school due to the parent or guardian suffering a serious  
4 medical condition;

5 (4) consideration of the cost, if any, that would be incurred by a  
6 school district in granting the medical hardship request for such trans-  
7 portation;

8 (5) a requirement of a written acceptance or denial of the medical  
9 hardship request upon a vote of the school board and that such written  
10 acceptance or denial shall be provided to the requesting parent or guar-  
11 dian within one hundred eighty days of the submission of the request;  
12 and

13 (6) any other provisions or considerations deemed appropriate by the  
14 school district.

15 (iii) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require school  
16 districts to create new bus stops or routes to accommodate such request.

17 (iv) Transportation for a lesser distance than two miles in the case  
18 of children attending grades kindergarten through eight or three miles  
19 in the case of children attending grades nine through twelve may be  
20 provided through an approved medical hardship waiver pursuant to this  
21 paragraph without the approval of qualified voters and without any  
22 requirement to offer such transportation equally to all children in like  
23 circumstances residing in the district.

24 (v) The cost of providing such transportation shall be a charge upon  
25 the district and for the purposes of subdivision seven of section thir-  
26 ty-six hundred two of this article, such pupils shall be considered  
27 nonallowable pupils and the costs of their transportation shall not be  
28 aidable.

29 § 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 3635 of the education  
30 law, as amended by section 11 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of  
31 2011, is amended to read as follows:

32 a. Sufficient transportation facilities (including the operation and  
33 maintenance of motor vehicles) shall be provided by the school district  
34 for all the children residing within the school district to and from the  
35 school they legally attend, who are in need of such transportation  
36 because of the remoteness of the school to the child or for the  
37 promotion of the best interest of such children. Such transportation  
38 shall be provided for all children attending grades kindergarten through  
39 eight who live more than two miles from the school which they legally  
40 attend or who are granted a waiver pursuant to paragraph h of this  
41 subdivision and for all children attending grades nine through twelve  
42 who live more than three miles from the school which they legally attend  
43 or who are granted a waiver pursuant to paragraph h of this subdivision  
44 and shall be provided for each such child up to a distance of fifteen  
45 miles, the distances in each case being measured by the nearest avail-  
46 able route from home to school. The cost of providing such transporta-  
47 tion between two or three miles or pursuant to such a waiver, as the  
48 case may be, and fifteen miles shall be considered for the purposes of  
49 this chapter to be a charge upon the district and an ordinary contingent  
50 expense of the district. Transportation for a lesser distance than two  
51 miles in the case of children attending grades kindergarten through  
52 eight or three miles in the case of children attending grades nine  
53 through twelve and for a greater distance than fifteen miles may be  
54 provided by the district with the approval of the qualified voters, and,  
55 if provided, shall be offered equally to all children in like circum-  
56 stances residing in the district; provided, however, that this require-

1 ment shall not apply to transportation offered pursuant to section thirty-six hundred thirty-five-b of this article or pursuant to paragraph h of this subdivision.

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3  
4 § 3. Paragraph d of subdivision 7 of section 3602 of the education law, as amended by section 22 of part C of chapter 57 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

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7 d. In determining approved transportation operating expense for 8 district-owned transportation and approved transportation capital, debt 9 service and lease expense pursuant to paragraphs b, c and e of this 10 subdivision and part two of this article, the commissioner shall make a 11 deduction from the total transportation expense for the transportation 12 of nonallowable pupils, and for that portion of the total annual mileage 13 of district-owned school buses that is not aidable because it is not 14 included in the total annual allowable mileage as defined in section 15 thirty-six hundred twenty-one of this article, provided that such calculations shall be made pursuant to regulations of the commissioner, and 16 further provided that such regulations shall provide for an exclusion of 17 pupil miles for transportation provided on a space-available basis to 18 pupils attending an approved universal prekindergarten program pursuant 19 to section thirty-six hundred two-e of this ~~article~~ part as well as 20 pupils transported under a medical hardship waiver pursuant to paragraph 21 h of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred thirty-five of this 22 article that ~~does~~ do not result in additional transportation costs.

23  
24 § 4. The commissioner of education may promulgate such rules and regulations as he or she deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this 25 act.

26  
27 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.