STATE OF NEW YORK

295

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to the negative effect of COVID-19 related budget cuts on certain populations

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Do No Harm Act".

§ 2. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 7 of section 23 of the state finance law, as added by section 24 of part JJ of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The following types of appropriations shall be exempt from such reduction pursuant to this subdivision: (i) public assistance payments for families and individuals and payments for eligible aged, blind and disabled persons related to supplemental social security; (ii) any reductions that would violate federal law; (iii) payments of debt service and related expenses for which the state is constitutionally obligated to pay debt service or is contractually obligated to pay debt service, subject to an appropriation, including where the state has a contingent contractual obligation; [~~and~~] (iv) payments the state is obligated to make pursuant to court orders or judgments**; and (v) any reductions in funding that would compound the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain disproportionately impacted populations. Any proposed reduction in funding that would compound the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain disproportionately impacted populations shall be accompanied by a remediation plan to offset the disproportionate impact. For the purposes of this paragraph, "disproportionate impact" shall mean disparities in rates of infection and death by race, age, and zip code based on demographic data provided by state and local departments of health**.

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

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§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, the amendments to subdivision 7 of section 23 of the state finance law made by section two of this act shall not affect the repeal of such subdivision and shall be deemed repealed therewith.