STATE OF NEW YORK

6604

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 19, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the financing of charter schools

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

Section 1. Section 2856 of the education law, as added by chapter 4 of the laws of 1998, subdivision 1 as amended by section 4 of part YYY of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, subparagraph (viii) of paragraph (a) as amended and subparagraphs (ix) and (x) of paragraph (a) as added by section 26-a of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2856. Financing of charter schools. 1. (a) The enrollment of students attending charter schools shall **not** be included in the enrollment, attendance, membership and, if applicable, count of students with disabilities of the school district in which the pupil resides. The charter school shall report all such data to the [~~school districts of residence~~] **department** in a timely manner. [~~Each school district shall report such enrollment, attendance and count of students with disabilities to the department.~~] The [~~school district of residence~~] **department** shall pay directly to the charter school for each student enrolled in the charter school [~~who resides in the school district~~] the charter school basic tuition, which shall be:

(i) for school years prior to the two thousand nine--two thousand ten school year, an amount equal to one hundred percent of the amount calculated pursuant to paragraph f of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the **student's** school district **of residence** for the year prior to the base year increased by the percentage change in the state total approved operating expense calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter from two years prior to the base year to the base year;

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

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(ii) for the two thousand nine--two thousand ten school year, the charter school basic tuition shall be the amount payable by such district as charter school basic tuition for the two thousand eight--two thousand nine school year;

(iii) for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven through two thousand thirteen--two thousand fourteen school years, the charter school basic tuition shall be the basic tuition computed for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph;

(iv) for the two thousand fourteen--two thousand fifteen, two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen and two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school years, the charter school basic tuition shall be the sum of the lesser of the charter school basic tuition computed for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph or the charter school basic tuition computed for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph plus the supplemental basic tuition;

(v) for the two thousand seventeen--two thousand eighteen school year, the charter school basic tuition shall be the sum of (A) the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year plus (B) five hundred dollars;

(vi) for the two thousand eighteen--two thousand nineteen school year, the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year five years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year, provided that the highest and lowest annual quotients shall be excluded from the calculation of such average or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(vii) for the two thousand nineteen--two thousand twenty school year the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year three years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year provided that the highest annual quotient calculated pursuant to this subparagraph shall be replaced by the average quotient calculated pursuant to subparagraph (vi) of this paragraph or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to

an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(viii) for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one and two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school years, the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year three years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year multiplied by, for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year only, (iii) nine hundred forty-five one-thousandths (0.945) or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(ix) for the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand twenty-three through two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five school years the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year four years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year, excluding the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year, of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(x) for the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six school year and thereafter the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year three years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thir-

ty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

For the purposes of this subdivision, the "supplemental basic tuition" shall be (A) for a school district for which the charter school basic tuition computed for the current year is greater than or equal to the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, (1) for the two thousand fourteen--two thousand fifteen school year two hundred and fifty dollars, and (2) for the two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen school year three hundred and fifty dollars, and (3) for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year five hundred dollars, and (4) for the two thousand seventeen--two thousand eighteen school year and thereafter, the sum of (i) the supplemental basic tuition calculated for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year plus (ii) five hundred dollars, and (B) for school years prior to the two thousand seventeen--two thousand eighteen school year, for a school district for which the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year is greater than the charter school basic tuition for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the positive difference of the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year minus the charter school basic tuition for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and (C) for school years following the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school years, for a school district for which the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year is greater than the charter school basic tuition for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the sum of (i) the supplemental basic tuition calculated for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year plus (ii) five hundred dollars.

(b) The [~~school district~~] **department** shall also pay directly to the charter school any federal or state aid attributable to a student with a disability attending **the** charter school in proportion to the level of services for such student with a disability that the charter school provides directly or indirectly. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, amounts payable pursuant to this subdivision from state or local funds may be reduced pursuant to an agreement between the **department, the charter** school and the charter entity set forth in the charter. Payments made pursuant to this subdivision shall be made by the [~~school district~~] **department** in six substantially equal installments each year beginning on the first business day of July and every two months thereafter. Amounts payable under this subdivision shall be determined by the commissioner. Amounts payable to a charter school in its first year of operation shall be based on the projections of initial-year enrollment set forth in the charter until actual enrollment data is reported to the school district by the charter school. Such projections shall be reconciled with the actual enrollment as actual

enrollment data is so reported and at the end of the school's first year of operation and each subsequent year based on a final report of actual enrollment by the charter school, and any necessary adjustments resulting from such final report shall be made to payments during the school's following year of operation.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision to the contrary, payment of the federal aid attributable to a student with a disability attending a charter school shall be made in accordance with the requirements of section 8065-a of title twenty of the United States code and sections 76.785-76.799 and 300.209 of title thirty-four of the code of federal regulations.

(d) School districts shall be eligible for an annual apportionment equal to the amount of the supplemental basic tuition for the charter school in the base year for the expenses incurred in the two thousand fourteen--two thousand fifteen, two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen, two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school years and thereafter.

2. [~~In the event of the failure of the school district to make payments required by this section, the state comptroller shall deduct from any state funds which become due to such school district an amount equal to the unpaid obligation. The comptroller shall pay over such sum to the charter school upon certification of the commissioner. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this subdivision.~~

~~3.~~] Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit any person or organization from providing funding or other assistance to the establishment or operation of a charter school. The board of trustees of a charter school is authorized to accept gifts, donations or grants of any kind made to the charter school and to expend or use such gifts, donations or grants in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the donor; provided, however, that no gift, donation or grant may be accepted if subject to a condition that is contrary to any provision of law or term of the charter.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 2856 of the education law, as amended by section 4-a of part YYY of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, subparagraph (viii) of paragraph (a) as amended and subparagraphs (ix) and (x) of paragraph (a) as added by section 26-b of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

1. (a) The enrollment of students attending charter schools shall **not** be included in the enrollment, attendance and, if applicable, count of students with disabilities of the school district in which the pupil resides. The charter school shall report all such data to the [~~school districts of residence~~] **department** in a timely manner. [~~Each school district shall report such enrollment, attendance and count of students with disabilities to the department.~~] The [~~school district of residence~~] **department** shall pay directly to the charter school for each student enrolled in the charter school [~~who resides in the school district~~] the charter school basic tuition which shall be:

(i) for school years prior to the two thousand nine--two thousand ten school year, an amount equal to one hundred percent of the amount calculated pursuant to paragraph f of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the school district for the year prior to the base year increased by the percentage change in the state total approved operating expense calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter from two years prior to the base year to the base year;

(ii) for the two thousand nine--two thousand ten school year, the charter school basic tuition shall be the amount payable by such district as charter school basic tuition for the two thousand eight--two thousand nine school year;

(iii) for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven through two thousand thirteen--two thousand fourteen school years, the charter school basic tuition shall be the basic tuition computed for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph;

(iv) for the two thousand fourteen--two thousand fifteen, two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen and two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school years, the charter school basic tuition shall be the sum of the lesser of the charter school basic tuition computed for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph or the charter school basic tuition computed for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph plus the supplemental basic tuition;

(v) for the two thousand seventeen--two thousand eighteen school year, the charter school basic tuition shall be the sum of (A) the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year plus (B) five hundred dollars;

(vi) for the two thousand eighteen--two thousand nineteen school year, the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year five years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year, provided that the highest and lowest annual quotients shall be excluded from the calculation of such average or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(vii) for the two thousand nineteen--two thousand twenty school year the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year three years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year provided that the highest annual quotient calculated pursuant to this subparagraph shall be replaced by the average quotient calculated pursuant to subparagraph (vi) of this paragraph or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to

an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(viii) for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one and two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school years, the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year three years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year multiplied by, for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year only, (iii) nine hundred forty-five one-thousandths (0.945) or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(ix) for the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand twenty-three through two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five school years the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year four years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year, excluding the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year, of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

(x) for the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six school year and thereafter the charter school basic tuition shall be the lesser of (A) the product of (i) the charter school basic tuition calculated for the base year multiplied by (ii) the average of the quotients for each school year in the period commencing with the year three years prior to the base year and finishing with the year prior to the base year of the total approved operating expense for such school district calculated pursuant to paragraph t of subdivision one of section thir-

ty-six hundred two of this chapter for each such year divided by the total approved operating expense for such district for the immediately preceding year or (B) the quotient of the total general fund expenditures for the school district calculated pursuant to an electronic data file created for the purpose of compliance with paragraph b of subdivision twenty-one of section three hundred five of this chapter published annually on May fifteenth for the year prior to the base year divided by the total estimated public enrollment for the school district pursuant to paragraph n of subdivision one of section thirty-six hundred two of this chapter for the year prior to the base year.

For the purposes of this subdivision, the "supplemental basic tuition" shall be (A) for a school district for which the charter school basic tuition computed for the current year is greater than or equal to the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, (1) for the two thousand fourteen--two thousand fifteen school year two hundred and fifty dollars, and (2) for the two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen school year three hundred and fifty dollars, and (3) for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year five hundred dollars, and (4) for the two thousand seventeen--two thousand eighteen school year and thereafter, the sum of (i) the supplemental basic tuition calculated for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year plus (ii) five hundred dollars, and (B) for school years prior to the two thousand seventeen--two thousand eighteen school year, for a school district for which the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year is greater than the charter school basic tuition for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the positive difference of the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year minus the charter school basic tuition for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and (C) for school years following the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school years, for a school district for which the charter school basic tuition for the two thousand ten--two thousand eleven school year is greater than the charter school basic tuition for the current year pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the sum of (i) the supplemental basic tuition calculated for the two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school year plus (ii) five hundred dollars.

(b) The [~~school district~~] **department** shall also pay directly to the charter school any federal or state aid attributable to a student with a disability attending charter school in proportion to the level of services for such student with a disability that the charter school provides directly or indirectly. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, amounts payable pursuant to this subdivision may be reduced pursuant to an agreement between the **department, the charter** school and the charter entity set forth in the charter. Payments made pursuant to this subdivision shall be made by the [~~school district~~] **department** in six substantially equal installments each year beginning on the first business day of July and every two months thereafter. Amounts payable under this subdivision shall be determined by the commissioner. Amounts payable to a charter school in its first year of operation shall be based on the projections of initial-year enrollment set forth in the charter. Such projections shall be reconciled with the actual enrollment at the end of the school's first year of operation,

and any necessary adjustments shall be made to payments during the school's second year of operation.

(c) School districts shall be eligible for an annual apportionment equal to the amount of the supplemental basic tuition for the charter school in the base year for the expenses incurred in the two thousand fourteen--two thousand fifteen, two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen, two thousand sixteen--two thousand seventeen school years and thereafter.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 2856 of the education law made by section one of this act shall not affect the expiration and reversion of such subdivision pursuant to subdivision d of section 27 of chapter 378 of the laws of 2007, as amended when upon such date the provisions of section two of this act shall take effect.