

STATE OF NEW YORK

1499

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 12, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BRESLIN -- 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 suspending the granting of charters for proposed charter schools not acted upon prior to April 1, 2021; 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:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. Due to a devastating fiscal crisis
2 not seen since the great depression, New York state faces staggering
3 budget gaps for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, local governments
4 face the prospect of reduced state revenue sharing and local school
5 districts face flat or reduced education aid, putting even greater pres-
6 sure on beleaguered property taxpayers.

7 Chapter 4 of the laws of 1998, which enacted the state's charter
8 school law, created a funding scheme that requires the public school
9 district of a student who enrolls in a charter school to pay the charter
10 school 100% of the district's prior year average approved per pupil
11 operating expense. School property taxes are by far the highest local
12 tax burden for New York state residents and redirecting precious
13 resources at a time of fiscal crisis will place additional burdens on
14 local taxpayers. Moreover, charter schools have primarily been estab-
15 lished in urban areas that face eroding tax bases and declining popu-
16 lations. Small city school districts are especially hard hit by the
17 establishment of charter schools.

18 The legislature therefore finds that it is in the best interest of
19 students and taxpayers throughout New York state to suspend the charter
20 school application process as of April 1, 2021. Furthermore, a proposed
21 charter school shall have its charter revoked if it has not commenced
22 classes prior to August 31, 2021.

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

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1 § 2. Section 2851 of the education law is amended by adding a new
2 subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

3 1-a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the
4 contrary, on and after April first, two thousand twenty-one, no applica-
5 tion to establish a charter school shall be accepted or acted upon by a
6 charter granting entity. Provided, further, that a proposed charter
7 school that has been granted a charter and has not commenced classes
8 prior to September first, two thousand twenty-one shall have such char-
9 ter revoked and no further action shall be taken by a charter granting
10 entity on such application.

11 § 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2021 and shall expire April
12 1, 2023 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed
13 repealed.