

STATE OF NEW YORK

4461--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 5, 2021

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, BAILEY, BIAGGI, BRISPORT, COMRIE, GIANARIS, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, KAVANAGH, LIU, MYRIE, PARKER, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SANDERS, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting The New Deal for CUNY

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This enacts "The New Deal for CUNY".
2 § 2. Legislative intent. The Legislature hereby recognizes the need
3 for The New Deal for CUNY to ensure that the commitment the Legislature
4 articulated in establishing the city university of New York is extended
5 to present and future generations. The 1961 legislation recognized that
6 the creation of a city university as a single unified system was "justified" by the special needs of a multi-racial urban constituency and the
7 "vital importance" of creating opportunities for disadvantaged New Yorkers.
8 Those needs have only grown in the half-century since the Legislature's action. Yet CUNY's ability to fulfill them has diminished as
9 enrollment has skyrocketed and investment has failed to keep pace. The
10 New Deal for CUNY reimagines CUNY as the vital urban university it must
11 be if it is to serve the people of New York. It enhances CUNY's historic
12 role as a leader in educational justice and economic transformation.
13 This legislation restores free tuition, ensures adequate faculty staffing,
14 and aligns student support with nationally recommended standards.
15 In doing so, The New Deal for CUNY restores New York to national leadership
16 in public higher education and removes the barriers to student
17 success that have prevented thousands of CUNY students from realizing

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

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1 the full potential of a college degree. The New Deal for CUNY gradually
2 increases the ratio of students to full-time faculty at CUNY to
3 nationally recommended levels, with a special emphasis on racial and
4 ethnic diversity in hiring. It also replaces the system of underpayment
5 for contingent faculty with a dignified labor system that provides
6 students with the support they urgently need. CUNY students, perhaps
7 more than any other college population in the country, bear stresses
8 that make it extraordinarily difficult to stay in college, sometimes
9 even to survive. The New Deal for CUNY addresses the urgent need for
10 student support by gradually escalating the hiring of mental health and
11 other counselors to bring CUNY into line with national standards. The
12 New Deal for CUNY mandates that all tuition and student fees for
13 in-state undergraduate students within specified time-frames for
14 completion of degree be eliminated, and that the revenue to the colleges
15 that would otherwise derive from tuition and fees be replaced annually
16 by federal, state, and city funds.

17 § 3. Subdivision A of section 6221 of the education law is amended by
18 adding a new paragraph 4-b to read as follows:

19 4-b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation to
20 the contrary, subject to amounts made available by appropriation,
21 commencing in the two thousand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-four
22 academic year, the city university shall be entitled to annually receive
23 one hundred percent reimbursement for the annual cost of tuition and
24 student fees for each matriculated undergraduate student at a city
25 university senior college and community college who is enrolled in
26 credit-bearing academic coursework and is on track to graduate. The
27 state comptroller shall establish a separate fund for such monies to be
28 distributed to the city university of New York. The city university
29 shall receive an amount equal to the full cost of in-state undergraduate
30 tuition and student fees for each qualifying, matriculated student who
31 successfully completes credit-bearing academic coursework and is on
32 track to graduate. The full cost of tuition shall not include any addi-
33 tional funds the student may receive from any other New York state or
34 federal grant, award, or scholarship program. The deposit of these funds
35 shall be utilized as first dollar awards to the students at the city
36 university. Any student not successfully completing credit-bearing
37 academic coursework in a semester shall still be eligible to receive all
38 other grants, awards, and scholarships for which they qualify but shall
39 not be eligible for the tuition and student fee reimbursement described
40 herein. Students shall be eligible to receive a one semester exemption
41 from the requirement to complete credit-bearing academic coursework for
42 such tuition reimbursement as promulgated by the higher education
43 services corporation. Such exemption shall not preclude any student from
44 exercising their right to appeal pursuant to higher education services
45 corporation policy. The state comptroller shall deposit such monies with
46 the city university no later than thirty days after the start of the
47 semester.

48 § 4. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding three new
49 subdivisions 22, 23 and 24 to read as follows:

50 22. Each community college and senior college of the city university
51 of New York shall maintain, at a minimum, a ratio of one clinical, non-
52 student mental health staff member per one thousand students. Within two
53 years of the effective date of this subdivision, each community and
54 senior college shall establish, and require a meeting of, a board of
55 advisors having expertise in the area of clinical mental health
56 services. The advisory boards shall, using current data, update and

1 modify, as necessary, such ratios based on actual ratios in this state
2 and any new information related to appropriate benchmarks for clini-
3 cian-to-student ratios. Data collected by the advisory boards may be
4 used as a means to increase the number of mental health staff members.
5 In no event shall the ratio fall below one clinical, non-student mental
6 health staff member per one thousand students. Following the initial
7 meeting, advisory boards shall meet once every five years. This subdivi-
8 sion shall not be funded by student tuition or fees created on or after
9 the effective date of this subdivision. Community colleges and senior
10 colleges in the city university of New York may seek federal funding or
11 private grants, if available, to further expand and support the
12 provisions of this subdivision. Any faculty and staff hired through the
13 assistance of federal funding or private grants pursuant to this subdivi-
14 vision shall be treated and classified as full-time public employees and
15 covered under any collectively bargained contracts in their respective
16 bargaining units. The city university shall report annually, on July
17 first, to the chair of the senate finance committee, the chair of the
18 assembly ways and means committee, the chair of the senate higher educa-
19 tion committee, and the chair of the assembly higher education committee
20 on the following criteria:

21 a. the ratio of clinical and non-student mental health staff employed
22 and what that number equates to per student;

23 b. the number of full-time mental health staff, and number of part-
24 time mental health staff per campus, including those who may not possess
25 the title mental health staff but are primarily employed to perform and
26 carry out the duties typically assigned to, and function as, mental
27 health staff; and

28 c. the mean and median number of students receiving services per
29 campus in the two thousand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-four
30 academic year and in the academic year in which the report is prepared
31 from full-time mental health staff, and from part-time academic advisor.

32 23. Commencing in the two thousand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-
33 four academic year each community college and senior college of the city
34 university of New York shall maintain a minimum academic staffing ratio
35 of forty-five full-time faculty members per one thousand full-time
36 equivalent students. Commencing in the two thousand twenty-four--two
37 thousand twenty-five academic year each community college and senior
38 college of the city university of New York shall maintain a minimum
39 academic staffing ratio of fifty full-time faculty members per one thou-
40 sand full-time equivalent students. Commencing in the two thousand
41 twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six academic year each community
42 college and senior college of the city university of New York shall
43 maintain a minimum academic staffing ratio of fifty-five full-time
44 faculty members per one thousand full-time equivalent students.
45 Commencing in the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven
46 academic year each community college and senior college of the city
47 university of New York shall maintain a minimum academic staffing ratio
48 of sixty full-time faculty members per one thousand full-time equivalent
49 students. Commencing in the two thousand twenty-seven--two thousand
50 twenty-eight academic year and each year thereafter, each community
51 college and senior college of the city university of New York shall
52 maintain a minimum academic staffing ratio of sixty-five full-time
53 faculty members per one thousand full-time equivalent students. This
54 subdivision shall not be funded by student fees created on or after the
55 effective date of this subdivision. Any faculty or staff hired through
56 the assistance of federal funding or private grants pursuant to this

1 subdivision shall be treated and classified as full-time public employ-
2 ees and covered under any collectively bargained contracts in their
3 respective bargaining units. The city university shall utilize national
4 searches to ensure recruitment of diverse faculty from underrepresented
5 racial, ethnic, and gender groups, and prioritize the creation of full-
6 time faculty positions for adjunct faculty currently employed by the
7 university in order to meet the minimum academic staffing ratios
8 described herein. The city university shall report annually, on July
9 first, to the chair of the senate finance committee, the chair of the
10 assembly ways and means committee, the chair of the senate higher educa-
11 tion committee, and the chair of the assembly higher education commit-
12 tee. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following
13 criteria:

14 a. data that indicates whether the city university is in compliance
15 with the mandatory minimum academic staffing ratios established pursuant
16 to this subdivision;

17 b. the number by campus, in the two thousand twenty-three--two thou-
18 sand twenty-four academic year and in the academic year in which the
19 report is prepared, of each full-time tenured faculty, full-time
20 tenure-track faculty, full-time non-tenure track faculty, including
21 those who may not have a faculty or academic job title but perform
22 instructional duties and number of faculty lines and unfilled faculty
23 positions;

24 c. the mean and median class size by campus in the two thousand twen-
25 ty-three--two thousand twenty-four academic year and in the academic
26 year in which the report is prepared, for full-time tenured faculty,
27 full-time tenure track faculty, and full-time non tenure track faculty
28 and instructional staff;

29 d. the mean and median class size by level for remedial one hundred
30 level introductory courses, and two hundred level mid-level courses and
31 above for completion of an associate degree and baccalaureate degree in
32 the two thousand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-four academic year
33 and in the academic year in which the report is prepared;

34 e. the number of part-time non tenure track faculty in the two thou-
35 sand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-four academic year and in the
36 academic year in which the report is prepared, including those who may
37 not have a faculty or academic job title but perform instructional
38 duties, by campus; and

39 f. the mean and median class size by campus for part-time non tenure
40 track faculty and instructional staff in the two thousand twenty-three-
41 -two thousand twenty-four academic year and in the academic year in
42 which the report is prepared.

43 24. Commencing in the two thousand twenty-three--two thousand twenty-
44 four academic year each community college and senior college of the city
45 university of New York shall maintain, at a minimum, a ratio of one
46 academic advisor per six hundred full-time equivalent students. Commenc-
47 ing in the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five academic
48 year, the minimum staffing ratio for academic advisors at each community
49 college and senior college of the city university of New York shall be
50 one academic advisor per every four hundred full-time equivalent
51 students. Commencing in the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twen-
52 ty-six academic year, the minimum staffing ratio for academic advisors
53 at each community college and senior college of the city university of
54 New York shall be one academic advisor for every three hundred full-time
55 equivalent students. Commencing in the two thousand twenty-six--two
56 thousand twenty-seven academic year, and every year thereafter, the

minimum staffing ratio for academic advisors at each community college and senior college of the city university of New York shall be one academic advisor for every two hundred and fifty students. This subdivision shall not be funded by student tuition or fees created on or after its effective date. Community colleges and senior colleges in the city university of New York may seek federal funding or private grants, if available, to further expand and support the provisions of this subdivision. Any faculty and staff hired through the assistance of federal funding or private grants pursuant to this subdivision shall be treated and classified as full-time public employees and covered under any collectively bargained contracts in their respective bargaining units. The city university shall report annually on July first to the chair of the senate finance committee, the chair of the assembly ways and means committee, the chair of the senate higher education committee, and the chair of the assembly higher education committee. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following criteria:

a. whether the city university is in compliance with the mandatory minimum academic advisor staffing ratios established pursuant to this subdivision;

b. the number of full-time academic advisors per campus, and number of part-time academic advisors, including those who may not possess the title academic advisor but are primarily employed to perform and carry out the duties typically assigned to, and function as, an academic advisor; and

c. the mean and median number of student advisees, per full-time and part-time academic advisor per campus in the two thousand twenty-three-two thousand twenty-four academic year and in the academic year in which the report is prepared.

§ 5. The second undesignated paragraph of section 6220 of the education law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 16-a to read as follows:

16-a. Part-time and adjunct faculty shall receive wages and compensation equal to those in the lecturer title of this section based on comparable hours, duties and level of responsibility assigned to those in the title of lecturer. Commensurate increases in wages and compensation for adjunct faculty with professoriate titles shall correlate to the appropriate professor, associate professor, and assistant professor titles as bargained.

§ 6. Section 22-c of the state finance law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. For the fiscal year beginning on April first, two thousand twenty-two and every fifth fiscal year thereafter, the governor shall submit to the legislature as part of the annual executive budget, five-year capital plans for the state university of New York state operated campuses and city university of New York senior colleges. Such plans shall provide for the annual appropriation of capital funds to cover one hundred percent of the annual critical maintenance needs identified by each university system, and may include funds for new infrastructure or other major capital initiatives, provided that such funding for new infrastructure or other major capital initiatives shall not count towards meeting the overall critical maintenance requirement. In the event that such plan is unable to fund one hundred percent of the critical maintenance needs due to the limitation imposed by article five-B of this chapter, the director of the budget shall develop five-year capital plans whereby the implementation of each capital plan would annually reduce the overall facility condition index for each university

1 system. For the purposes of this subdivision, "facility condition index"
2 shall mean an industry benchmark that measures the ratio of deferred
3 maintenance dollars to replacement dollars for the purposes of analyzing
4 the effect of investing in facility improvements. The apportionment of
5 capital appropriations to each state-operated campus or senior college
6 shall be based on a methodology to be developed by the director of the
7 budget, in consultation with the state university of New York and the
8 city university of New York.

9 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.