STATE OF NEW YORK

10685

IN ASSEMBLY

August 28, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Novakhov) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to reporting requirements regarding financial expenditures related to certain teacher disciplinary proceedings

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "3020-a arbitration process reporting act".

§ 2. Legislative findings and declaration of purpose. It is in the public interest to ensure transparency and accountability in the financial expenditures of school districts in cities with a population exceeding 250,000 that have a collective bargaining agreement. The 3020-a arbitration process, as established under section 3020-a of the education law, involves significant financial expenditures that should be disclosed to ensure responsible fiscal management. The citizens and elected officials of such cities have a right to be informed about the financial aspects of the 3020-a arbitration process to promote public trust and informed decision-making. Further, detailed financial reporting can help identify trends, inefficiencies, and opportunities for reform in the arbitration process and transparency in the arbitration process can contribute to better labor relations and more effective governance.

§ 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3020-b to read as follows:

§ 3020-b. Arbitration process reporting. 1. Any city school district in a city with a population exceeding two hundred fifty thousand that has a collective bargaining agreement shall prepare an annual itemized financial report on the arbitration process established pursuant to section three thousand twenty-a of this article.

2. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

a. every case processed pursuant to the arbitration process established pursuant to section three thousand twenty-a of this article in such city school district during the previous school year;

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

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b. the amount of money spent on each case, itemized by expense category, including but not limited to legal fees, arbitrator fees, and administrative costs;

c. the duration of each case;

d. the specific charges brought in each case;

e. the final resolution or outcome of each case; and

f. a summary page, which shall include but not be limited to:

(i) the total number of cases processed pursuant to the arbitration process established pursuant to section three thousand twenty-a of this article in such city school district during the previous school year;

(ii) the average amount of money spent per case;

(iii) the total amount of money spent on all cases;

(iv) the average duration of each case;

(v) the types of charges brought in such cases; and

(vi) the number of cases that resulted in a particular resolution or outcome.

3. a. No later than March first of each year, each city school district required to prepare such report pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall submit such report to the comptroller, the assembly ways and means committee, the senate finance committee, and all members of the assembly or senate representing each such city.

b. Such report shall be made publicly available on the website of each such city and through public records requests.

4. a. The assembly ways and means committee and the senate finance committee shall hold annual public hearings to review and discuss the annual reports required pursuant to this section. Such public hearings shall allow for public input and commentary on the findings of such reports.

b. The assembly ways and means committee and the senate finance committee shall issue annual summaries of the findings and recommendations contained in such annual reports and discussed at such annual public hearings.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.