STATE OF NEW YORK

8171

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

October 18, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. GALLAGHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing a fund to provide reimbursement to United States citizens or permanent residents who reside in the state of New York for expenses arising from leaving Israel or Palestine during or as a direct result of the conflict that started on October 7, 2023

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 "emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund act".

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-bbbbb to read as follows:

§ 97-bbbbb. Emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance an account of the miscellaneous special revenue account to be known as the "emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund".

2. Moneys in the emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund shall be kept separate and shall not be commingled with any other moneys in the custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance.

3. The emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund shall consist of moneys appropriated for the purpose of such account, moneys transferred to such account pursuant to law, contributions consisting of promises or grants of any money or property of any kind or value, or any other thing of value, including grants or other financial assistance from any agency of government and

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

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moneys required by the provisions of this section or any other law to be paid into or credited to this account.

4. Moneys of the emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund, when allocated, shall be available, to U.S. citizens or permanent residents with bona fide residency in the state of New York as reimbursement for otherwise unreimbursed actual expenses incurred relating to travel out of Israel or Palestine during or as a direct result of the conflict that started on or about October seventh, two thousand twenty-three, including for travel, lodging, lost personal property, medical care, or other related expenses, including any reimbursement the individual was required to provide to the U.S. for such travel related costs.

5. The moneys, when allocated, shall be paid out of the emergency safe return of U.S. citizens or permanent residents from Israel or Palestine fund, pursuant to subdivision four of this section, and subject to the approval of the director of the budget, on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the secretary of state or his or her designee.

§ 3. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.