STATE OF NEW YORK

8836

IN SENATE

March 19, 2024

Introduced by Sen. MYRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT directing the office of children and family services to conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility of providing year-round, out-of-school programming to every child in New York that desires to participate

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and declares that providing universal, year-round, out-of-school programming is a public safety and pedagogical imperative. The increased costs of housing, food, transportation, and childcare have prompted an alarming exodus of working and middle-class residents from the state, and as such, the legislature finds that providing a free, safe, interactive and professional environment for every child after school hours, including during the summer, might provide well-needed relief for thousands of working families and communities across the state.

§ 2. Study. The office of children and family services shall, within eighteen months from the effective date of this act, conduct and complete a study to evaluate the feasibility of providing universal, year-round, out-of-school programming to every child and family in New York that desires to participate. Such study shall examine, at a minimum, the following:

(a) the costs of implementing a year-round, universal out-of-school program, including but not limited to facility, transportation, labor, and security costs. The study shall also examine the current funding structures for after-school programming, including funding structures for out-of-school school programs, the cost burdens borne by municipalities, New York state, and the federal government, and how those costs might more effectively be shared in a universal program;

(b) per-child pay rates for current providers, as well as the wage disparities, if any, between out-of-school workers and similarly situated service professionals. The study shall also make recommendations on professional development opportunities for out-of-school workers;

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

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(c) current accessibility to out-of-school programming, including summer employment and after school programming during the academic year, and whether inequities exist, and to what extent, in access to current programming. The study shall consider socio-economic inequities, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, sex, immigration status, and socio-economic status disparities that may impose barriers to accessibility;

(d) opportunities for inter- and intra- agency collaboration in delivering universal out-of-school programming, including but not limited to opportunities for the department of education, division of criminal justice services, local youth bureaus, and provider agencies to share resources, best practices, and relevant information to deliver effective universal out-of-school programming; and

(e) any other relevant topic areas deemed necessary to assist in delivering universal out-of-school programming in New York state.

§ 3. Report. No later than ninety days after such study has been completed pursuant to section two of this act, the office of children and family services shall complete a report based on such study, which shall provide recommendations for the completion and implementation of a universal out-of-school program within the state of New York, and shall deliver such report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.