STATE OF NEW YORK

4745

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 23, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to additional state aid to public library systems merged after January 1, 2022

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 273 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph o to read as follows:

o. (1) A merged public library system shall receive supplemental state aid multiplied by a factor equal to the number of previously existing public library systems minus the number of merged library systems. If more than one merged public library system results from merging, or merging and reconfiguring three or more previously existing public library systems, the merged systems shall divide the supplemental state aid.

(2) A merged public library system may designate one central library or co-central libraries in its plan of library service submitted pursuant to this subdivision. Forty percent of the annual supplemental aid received by the merged public library system shall be designated for central library services. If co-central libraries are designated, the merged public library system shall determine the proportion of state aid to be assigned to each.

(3) On or before March first of the third year following merger, or merger and reconfiguration, a merged public library system shall report to the commissioner in a form prescribed by him or her on the savings achieved by and the impact upon service delivery of the merger. The commissioner shall in turn transmit such report to the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly.

(4) For the purposes of this paragraph:

(i) "Merged public library system" shall mean a public library system:

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

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(A) created after January first, two thousand twenty-four by merging, or merging and reconfiguring the areas served by two or more previously existing public library systems;

(B) meeting the conditions under which public library systems are entitled to state aid as set forth in section two hundred seventy-two of this part; and

(C) resulting in a larger geographic area or larger population served than the prior existing systems and resulting in a decrease in the total number of public library systems eligible for state aid pursuant to section two hundred seventy-two of this part.

(ii) "Previously existing public library system" shall mean a public library system providing service under an approved plan on January first, two thousand twenty-four.

(iii) "Supplemental state aid" shall mean state aid, in addition to any other state aid. The amount of such supplemental state aid shall be two hundred fifty-five thousand dollars annually for the first five years subsequent to merging, two hundred four thousand dollars in the sixth year, one hundred fifty-three thousand dollars in the seventh year, one hundred two thousand dollars in the eighth year, fifty-one thousand dollars in the ninth year, and thereafter such aid shall cease to be paid.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.