STATE OF NEW YORK

8523

IN SENATE

February 8, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to financing for SUNY downstate medical center

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "SUNY downstate medical support act of 2024".

§ 2. Article 5 of the education law is amended by adding a new part 2-A to read as follows:

PART 2-A

SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL SUPPORT FUND

Section 286. Definitions.

287. Establishment of the fund.

288. Objectives of the fund.

289. Capitalization of the fund.

289-a. Administration of the fund.

289-b. Oversight and accountability.

§ 286. Definitions. As used in this part:

1. "Fund" refers to the SUNY downstate medical support fund.

2. "Institution" refers to any SUNY downstate medical center or health-related institution.

3. "Eligible institution" refers to any institution under the state university of New York (SUNY) system primarily involved in health education, research, and patient care.

§ 287. Establishment of the fund. 1. There is hereby established a special fund to be known as the "SUNY downstate medical support fund".

2. The fund shall consist of monies raised through the issuance of bonds as otherwise authorized by law, grants from any governmental unit, and any additional appropriations as set forth in section two hundred eighty-nine of this part.

§ 288. Objectives of the fund. The fund shall be dedicated to:

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

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1. Providing financial support to eligible institutions for infrastructural upgrades and expansion;

2. Facilitating research and development grants in medical and health-related fields;

3. Offering scholarships and financial aid to students attending eligible institutions; and

4. Supporting community health initiatives and outreach programs led by eligible institutions.

§ 289. Capitalization of the fund. 1. The initial capitalization of the fund shall be attained through the issuance of revenue bonds by the state treasury.

2. Bonds shall be tax-exempt to encourage investments by individual and institutional investors.

3. The state shall pledge to allocate a portion of annual budgetary surpluses to the fund to ensure its growth and sustainability, subject to legislative appropriation.

§ 289-a. Administration of the fund. 1. The fund shall be administered by a board consisting of the chancellor of the state university, the president of SUNY downstate medical center, and three additional members appointed by the governor, with advice and consent from the legislature.

2. The board shall meet quarterly to review the performance of the fund, authorize disbursements, and ensure compliance with the objectives of this part.

3. An annual report shall be submitted to the legislature detailing the fund's activities, financial health, and contributions to the eligible institutions.

§ 289-b. Oversight and accountability. 1. The management of the fund shall be subject to oversight by the legislative higher education committees.

2. The oversight committees shall conduct a joint annual audit to ensure proper use of the fund's resources.

§ 3. Severability. 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.