STATE OF NEW YORK

2618

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 21, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SAYEGH, SANTABARBARA, BUTTENSCHON, ALVAREZ, FALL, TAYLOR, LEVENBERG, COLTON, CUNNINGHAM, CONRAD, WILLIAMS, ZINERMAN, COOK, McDONOUGH, CHANG, PIROZZOLO, DeSTEFANO, K. BROWN, BRABENEC, LEMONDES, NOVAKHOV, BENDETT, GRAY, SHIMSKY, BEEPHAN, TAGUE, GALLAHAN, HYNDMAN, BROOK-KRASNY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to minimum standards for the security and safety of school grounds

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

Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 57 to read as follows:

57. The commissioner, in conjunction with the superintendent of state police and the commissioner of the division of homeland security and emergency services, shall establish, by rule, minimum standards for the security and safety of school buildings, grounds and property so as to provide an appropriately safe learning environment. Such standards shall include, but not be limited to, the security of building doors, windows and other points of entry, and access to school grounds and property, including guidelines for fences and security gates.

§ 2. Subparagraphs (iii) and (iv) of paragraph i of subdivision 2 of section 2023-a of the education law, as added by section 2 of part A of chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, are amended and a new subparagraph (v) is added to read as follows:

(iii) in years in which the normal contribution rate of the New York state teachers' retirement system, as defined by paragraph a of subdivision two of section five hundred seventeen of this chapter, increases by more than two percentage points from the previous year, a tax levy necessary for expenditures for the coming fiscal year for school district employer contributions to the New York state teachers' retire-

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

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ment system caused by growth in the normal contribution rate minus two percentage points; [~~and~~]

(iv) a capital tax levy[~~,~~]**; and**

(v) a tax levy necessary for expenditures for the updating and enhancing of the security and safety of school buildings, grounds and property.

§ 3. The opening paragraph of subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law, as amended by chapter 355 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

Any apportionment to a school district pursuant to this subdivision shall be based upon base year approved expenditures for capital outlays incurred prior to July first, two thousand one from its general fund, capital fund or reserved funds and current year approved expenditures for debt service, including debt service for refunding bond issues eligible for an apportionment pursuant to paragraph g of this subdivision and lease or other annual payments to the New York city educational construction fund created by article ten of this chapter or the city of Yonkers educational construction fund created by article ten-B of this chapter which have been pledged to secure the payment of bonds, notes or other obligations issued by the fund to finance the construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of the school portion of combined occupancy structures, or for lease or other annual payments to the New York state urban development corporation created by chapter one hundred seventy-four of the laws of nineteen hundred sixty-eight, pursuant to agreement between such school district and such corporation relating to the construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of any school building, or for annual payments to the dormitory authority pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise provide for school district capital facilities or school district capital equipment made under the provisions of section sixteen hundred eighty of the public authorities law, or for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for educational facilities of a city school district under the provisions of section sixteen of chapter six hundred five of the laws of two thousand, or for payments, pursuant to any assignment authorized by section twenty-seven hundred ninety-nine-tt of the public authorities law, of debt service in furtherance of funding the five-year educational facilities capital plan of the city of New York school district or related debt service costs and expenses as set forth in such section, for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, design, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for projects authorized pursuant to the city of Syracuse and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Syracuse cooperative school reconstruction act, for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, design, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for projects authorized pursuant to the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act, for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing,

refinancing, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for projects authorized pursuant to the Yonkers city school district facilities modernization program act, or for lease, lease-purchase or other annual payments to another school district or person, partnership or corporation pursuant to an agreement made under the provisions of section four hundred three-b, subdivision eight of section twenty-five hundred three, or subdivision six of section twenty-five hundred fifty-four of this chapter, provided that the apportionment for such lease or other annual payments under the provisions of section four hundred three-b, subdivision eight of section twenty-five hundred three, or subdivision six of section twenty-five hundred fifty-four of this chapter, other than payments under a lease-purchase agreement or an equivalent agreement, shall be based upon approved expenditures in the current year. Approved expenditures for capital outlays from a school district's general fund, capital fund or reserved funds that are incurred on or after July first, two thousand two, and are not aidable pursuant to subdivision six-f of this section, shall be aidable as debt service under an assumed amortization established pursuant to paragraphs e and j of this subdivision. In any such case approved expenditures shall be only for new construction, reconstruction, purchase of existing structures, for site purchase and improvement, for new garages, for original equipment, furnishings, machinery, or apparatus, and for professional fees and other costs incidental to such construction or reconstruction, or purchase of existing structures. In the case of a lease or lease-purchase agreement entered pursuant to section four hundred three-b, subdivision eight of section twenty-five hundred three or subdivision six of section twenty-five hundred fifty-four of this chapter, approved expenditures for the lease or other annual payments shall not include the costs of heat, electricity, water or other utilities or the costs of operation or maintenance of the leased facility. An apportionment shall be available pursuant to this subdivision for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement in a building, or portion thereof, being leased by a school district only if the lease is for a term of at least ten years subsequent to the date of the general construction contract for such construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement. Each school district shall prepare a five year capital facilities plan, pursuant to regulations developed by the commissioner for such purpose, provided that in the case of a city school district in a city having a population of one million inhabitants or more, such facilities plan shall comply with the provisions of section twenty-five hundred ninety-p of this chapter and this subdivision. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, a building inventory, and estimated expense of facility needs, for new construction, additions, alterations, reconstruction, major repairs, energy consumption and maintenance by school building, as appropriate. Such five year plan shall include a priority ranking of projects**, including those necessary to comply with such safety standards as are established pursuant to subdivision fifty-seven of section three hundred five of this chapter,** and shall be amended if necessary to reflect subsequent on-site evaluations of facilities conducted by state supported contractors.

§ 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law, as amended by chapter 529 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

Any apportionment to a school district pursuant to this subdivision shall be based upon base year approved expenditures for capital outlays

incurred prior to July first, two thousand one from its general fund, capital fund or reserved funds and current year approved expenditures for debt service, including debt service for refunding bond issues eligible for an apportionment pursuant to paragraph g of this subdivision and lease or other annual payments to the New York city educational construction fund created by article ten of this chapter or the city of Yonkers educational construction fund created by article ten-B of this chapter which have been pledged to secure the payment of bonds, notes or other obligations issued by the fund to finance the construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of the school portion of combined occupancy structures, or for lease or other annual payments to the New York state urban development corporation created by chapter one hundred seventy-four of the laws of nineteen hundred sixty-eight, pursuant to agreement between such school district and such corporation relating to the construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of any school building, or for annual payments to the dormitory authority pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise provide for school district capital facilities or school district capital equipment made under the provisions of section sixteen hundred eighty of the public authorities law, or for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for educational facilities of a city school district under the provisions of section sixteen of chapter six hundred five of the laws of two thousand, or for payments, pursuant to any assignment authorized by section twenty-seven hundred ninety-nine-tt of the public authorities law, of debt service in furtherance of funding the five-year educational facilities capital plan of the city of New York school district or related debt service costs and expenses as set forth in such section, for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, design, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for projects authorized pursuant to the city of Syracuse and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Syracuse cooperative school reconstruction act, for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, design, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for projects authorized pursuant to the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act, for annual payments pursuant to any lease, sublease or other agreement relating to the financing, refinancing, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for projects authorized pursuant to the Yonkers city school district facilities modernization program act, or for lease, lease-purchase or other annual payments to another school district or person, partnership or corporation pursuant to an agreement made under the provisions of section four hundred three-b, subdivision eight of section twenty-five hundred three, or subdivision six of section twenty-five hundred fifty-four of this chapter, provided that the apportionment for such lease or other annual payments under the provisions of section four hundred three-b, subdivision eight of section twenty-five hundred three, or

subdivision six of section twenty-five hundred fifty-four of this chapter, other than payments under a lease-purchase agreement or an equivalent agreement, shall be based upon approved expenditures in the current year. Approved expenditures for capital outlays from a school district's general fund, capital fund or reserved funds that are incurred on or after July first, two thousand two, and are not aidable pursuant to subdivision six-f of this section, shall be aidable as debt service under an assumed amortization established pursuant to paragraphs e and j of this subdivision. In any such case approved expenditures shall be only for new construction, reconstruction, purchase of existing structures, for site purchase and improvement, for new garages, for original equipment, furnishings, machinery, or apparatus, and for professional fees and other costs incidental to such construction or reconstruction, or purchase of existing structures. In the case of a lease or lease-purchase agreement entered pursuant to section four hundred three-b, subdivision eight of section twenty-five hundred three or subdivision six of section twenty-five hundred fifty-four of this chapter, approved expenditures for the lease or other annual payments shall not include the costs of heat, electricity, water or other utilities or the costs of operation or maintenance of the leased facility. An apportionment shall be available pursuant to this subdivision for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement in a building, or portion thereof, being leased by a school district only if the lease is for a term of at least ten years subsequent to the date of the general construction contract for such construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement. Each school district shall prepare a five year capital facilities plan, pursuant to regulations developed by the commissioner for such purpose, provided that in the case of a city school district in a city having a population of one million inhabitants or more, such facilities plan shall comply with the provisions of section twenty-five hundred ninety-p of this chapter and this subdivision. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, a building inventory, and estimated expense of facility needs, for new construction, additions, alterations, reconstruction, major repairs, energy consumption and maintenance by school building, as appropriate. Such plan shall consider the incorporation of design principles and strategies, pursuant to guidance issued by the commissioner, as part of a comprehensive approach to provide a safe, secure and healthy school environment. Such five year plan shall include a priority ranking of projects**, including those necessary to comply with such safety standards as are established pursuant to subdivision fifty-seven of section three hundred five of this chapter,** and shall be amended if necessary to reflect subsequent on-site evaluations of facilities conducted by state supported contractors.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that if chapter 529 of the laws of 2023 shall not have taken effect on or before such date then section four of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as such chapter of the laws of 2023 takes effect.