STATE OF NEW YORK

670

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ, RAGA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to authorizing the establishment of permanent COVID-19 memorials and establishing a COVID-19 permanent memorial fund

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

Section 1. The state of New York and any municipality therein are authorized to, in collaboration with municipal parks departments and under the guidance of the office of parks, recreation, and historic preservation, designate and establish a permanent COVID-19 memorial within its jurisdiction. Municipalities seeking to establish and maintain such a memorial may apply for funding under section 99-ss of the state finance law as well as from other public and private sources, including but not limited to grants, donations, and partnerships. The final designs and locations of such memorials shall be selected through a community-driven process overseen by municipal parks departments, with specific guidance from the office of parks, recreation, and historic preservation, and with financial oversight from the comptroller's office. The final designs and locations of such memorials shall prioritize input from those most impacted, including but not limited to family members and loved ones of victims of COVID-19.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-ss to read as follows:

§ 99-ss. COVID-19 permanent memorial fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation a fund to be known as the "COVID-19 permanent memorial fund".

2. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated therefor, grants, gifts or bequests received by the state for the purposes of the fund,

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

LBD01702-01-5

and all other moneys credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source. Moneys of such fund shall be expended only for the establishment and maintenance of permanent COVID-19 memorials. Nothing in this section shall prevent the state from soliciting and receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of such fund and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. Moneys in such fund shall be kept separate from and shall not be commingled with any other moneys in the custody of the comptroller or the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation. Any moneys of the fund not required for immediate use may, at the discretion of the comptroller, in consultation with the director of the budget, be invested by the comptroller in obligations of the United States or the state, or in obligations the principal and interest on which are guaranteed by the United States or by the state. Any income earned by the investment of such moneys shall be added to and become a part of, and shall be used for the purposes of such fund.

4. Moneys from such fund shall be disbursed for the establishment and maintenance of permanent COVID-19 memorials by way of a grant program established by the comptroller in conjunction with the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.