STATE OF NEW YORK

1374

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2025

Introduced by Sens. SERRANO, RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to providing additional compensation to certain employees

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

Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 209-ii to read as follows:

§ 209-ii. Salary compensation for employees of a police department with certain language skills. 1. A city with a population of one hundred thousand or more is authorized to adopt a local law to create a program to be known as the "Language Services Program", which program shall provide for additional compensation in an amount of not less than five percent of the base salary of any employee of a police department who qualifies for such additional compensation under this section.

2. The commissioner, superintendent or chief of police, where applicable, of a police department in a city with a population of one hundred thousand or more which has adopted a local law to create a language services program as described in subdivision one of this section shall designate a language services program director. The duties of such program director shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) determining qualifications for the language services program, which qualifications shall include satisfying the requirements of a public contact person as set forth in subdivision three of this section;

(b) creating an application process for additional language skills compensation;

(c) defining which foreign languages shall qualify under this program;

(d) setting language skills and proficiency standards which applicants must demonstrate to qualify;

(e) maintaining a record of public contact positions;

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

LBD02303-01-5

(f) keeping a record of all employees who have qualified to receive language skills pay;

(g) informing employees who are members of the police department of the program; and

(h) distributing to all employees of the police department information regarding the application procedures for such program.

The program director shall identify those positions within the police department that are to be designated as public contact positions. The decision of the program director as to the classification of such a position is final.

3. A public contact person shall be defined as a sworn or civilian position with the police department wherein thirty percent or more of the assigned work of such person involves direct communication with the public. Such positions shall include, but not be limited to, patrol officers, police communication dispatchers, investigators, detectives, and other such positions as determined by the program director.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of October next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.