STATE OF NEW YORK

10656

IN ASSEMBLY

March 19, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. ZACCARO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to tuition assistance program awards for students experiencing homelessness

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

Section 1. The opening paragraph of item 1 of clause (A) of subparagraph (i) of paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 667 of the education law, as amended by section 1 of part DD of chapter 56 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

In the case of students who have not been granted an exclusion of parental income, who have qualified as an orphan, foster child, [~~or~~] ward of the court**, or homeless** for the purposes of federal student financial aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, **are deemed homeless under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended,** or had a dependent for income tax purposes during the tax year next preceding the academic year for which application is made, except for those students who have been granted exclusion of parental income who have a spouse but no other dependent:

§ 2. Section 661 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

8. Homeless status. The president shall promulgate rules and regulations for a uniform verification method of a student's status as homeless to be used for all awards and loans made pursuant to this article. Such rules and regulations shall utilize the same method of verification of homelessness as federal student financial aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

§ 3. Subdivision 4 of section 663 of the education law, as amended by section 1 of part X of chapter 56 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

4. Relinquishing of parental control. In determining the amount of an award, the president may, in cases of unusual and exceptional family

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

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circumstances warranting such action, recognize an existing condition wherein parental control has in effect been relinquished by the parents or others responsible for the applicant, and notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision three of this section, the applicant has in effect been emancipated. Provided, however, that students who have qualified as an orphan, foster child, or ward of the court for the purposes of federal student financial aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, **or the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended,** shall not be considered emancipated for the purposes of determining an award pursuant to section six hundred sixty-seven of this article. The criteria used in determining these cases of unusual and exceptional family circumstances shall be established by the president with the approval of the board of trustees and the director of the division of the budget.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.