STATE OF NEW YORK

7385

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BRONSON, CLARK, MEEKS, LUNSFORD -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend chapter 416 of the laws of 2007, establishing the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act, in relation to granting further authority to the RJSCB to modernize educational facilities in the city of Rochester

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

Section 1. Sections 4 and 5 of chapter 416 of the laws of 2007, establishing the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act, as amended by chapter 614 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4. Project authorization. No more than: (a) 13 projects, up to a total cost of three hundred twenty-five million dollars in phase one, and (b) 26 projects, up to a total cost of four hundred thirty-five million dollars in phase two, and (c) 12 projects, up to a total cost of [~~four hundred seventy-five million dollars~~] **six hundred million dollars** in phase three shall be authorized and undertaken pursuant to this act, unless otherwise authorized by law.

§ 5. Comprehensive school facilities modernization plan. The superintendent shall submit to the RJSCB a comprehensive draft plan recommending and outlining the projects for phase two and phase three it proposes to be undertaken pursuant to this act. The RJSCB shall consider the plan in developing a comprehensive school facilities modernization plan recommending and outlining the projects it proposes to be potentially undertaken pursuant to this act. Such plan shall include: (a) an estimate of total costs to be financed, proposed financing plan, proposed method of financing, terms and conditions of the financing, estimated financing costs, and, if city general obligation bonds or

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

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notes are not proposed as the method of financing, a comparison of financing costs between such bonds or notes and the proposed method of financing. Payment of debt service on bonds, notes or other obligations issued to secure financing of not more than $325,000,000 in phase one, $435,000,000 in phase two, and [~~$475,000,000~~] $600,000,000 in phase three for projects undertaken pursuant to this act shall not be considered when determining the "city amount" required pursuant to subparagraph (ii) of paragraph a of subdivision 5-b of section 2576 of the education law; provided, however, that this provision shall not otherwise affect the determination of said "city amount" with respect to funding unrelated to projects undertaken pursuant to this act. The plan should also address what specific options would be used to ensure that sufficient resources exist to cover the local share of any such project cost on an annual basis; (b) information concerning the potential persons to be involved in the financing and such person's role and responsibilities; (c) estimates on the design, reconstruction and rehabilitation costs by project, any administrative costs for potential projects, and an outline of the timeframe expected for completion of each potential project; (d) a detailed description of the request for proposals process and an outline of the criteria to be used for selection of the program manager, the independent compliance officer and all contractors; provided that the RJSCB may extend the contracts of the providers of professional services for phase one or two upon the adoption of findings that doing so would be in the public interest; the contracts of the program manager and the independent compliance officer for phase two will be rebid and the contracts of the program manager and the independent compliance officer for phase three will be rebid, and provided further that the program manager and the independent compliance officer and any new or different providers of professional services shall be engaged in compliance with the provisions of section eight of this act; (e) any proposed amendments to the city school district's five-year capital facilities plan submitted in accordance with subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law and the regulations of the commissioner; and (f) a diversity plan to develop diversity goals, including appropriate community input and public discussion, and develop strategies that would create and coordinate any efforts to ensure a more diverse workforce for the projects. The diversity plan should address accountability for attainment of the diversity goals, what forms of monitoring would be used, and how such information would be publicly communicated.

Prior to the development of the comprehensive school facilities modernization plan, the RJSCB and district shall hold as many public hearings as may be necessary to ensure sufficient public input and allow for significant public discussion on school building needs in such city, with at least one hearing to be held in each neighborhood potentially impacted by a proposed project.

All projects proposed in the comprehensive school facilities modernization plan shall be included by the city school district as a special section of the district's five-year capital facilities plan that is required pursuant to subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law and the regulations of the commissioner.

The RJSCB shall submit the components of such comprehensive plan outlined in subdivision (a) of this section to the comptroller, along with any other information requested by the comptroller, for [~~his or her~~] such comptroller's review and approval.

§ 2. Subdivision (c) of section 21 of chapter 416 of the laws of 2007, establishing the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act, as added by chapter 614 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

(c) On or before June 30, [~~2031~~] **2033**, or upon completion of the 12 projects authorized in phase three pursuant to this act, whichever shall first occur, the RJSCB shall issue a report to the city, the city school district, the governor, the commissioner, the comptroller, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly, the state board of regents, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the New York state senate and assembly committees on education, the finance committee of the New York state senate, and the ways and means committee of the New York state assembly. Such report shall identify the fiscal and pedagogical results of the projects undertaken pursuant to this act, along with recommendations for its continuance, amendments, or discontinuance.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all contracts entered into, renewed, modified or amended on or after such effective date.