STATE OF NEW YORK

10358

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. RHOADS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating the research literacy enhancement program; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to creating the research literacy enhancement fund

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

Section 1. Title 6 of the education law is amended by adding a new article 107 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 107

RESEARCH LITERACY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Section 5300. Short title.
5301. Definition.
5302. Research literacy enhancement program.
5303. Research literacy enhancement fund.

§ 5300. Short title. This title shall be known and may be cited as the "research literacy enhancement act".

§ 5301. Definition. As used in this title, "program" shall mean the research literacy enhancement program created pursuant to section five thousand three hundred two of this article.

§ 5302. Research literacy enhancement program. 1. The commissioner shall establish within the department a research literacy enhancement program through which the department shall make grants to academic institutions within the state currently conducting or having an interest in conducting basic and clinical, social, translational, technological, and behavioral research on literacy.

2. All research funds shall be awarded on the basis of the research priorities established for the program and the merit of the proposed research, as determined by an open, competitive peer review process that ensures objectivity, consistency, and high quality. All investigators, regardless of affiliation, shall have equal access and opportunity to compete for program funds.

§ 5303. Research literacy enhancement fund. All moneys received pursuant to section five thousand three hundred two of this article shall be

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

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credited to the fund, as established by section ninety-five-l of the state finance law. The commissioner shall use the fund to administer the research literacy enhancement program and to make grants to awardees pursuant to section five thousand three hundred two of this article.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 95-l to read as follows:

§ 95-l. Research literacy enhancement fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance and the comptroller, a special fund to be known as the "research literacy enhancement fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all monies appropriated for the purpose of such fund and any grant, gift or bequest made to the research literacy enhancement program as established by article one hundred seven of title six of the education law.

3. Moneys of the fund shall be available for grants through the research literacy enhancement program, and shall be expended only for the purposes spelled out in section five thousand three hundred two of the education law.

4. Moneys in the research literacy enhancement fund shall be kept separate and shall not be commingled with any other moneys in the custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance and the comptroller.

5. The moneys of the fund shall be paid out on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of education, or by an officer or employee of the department of education designated by such commissioner.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.