STATE OF NEW YORK

1133

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. TEDISCO, FELDER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to authorizing a distinctive "guardians for schools" license plate; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the guardians for schools fund

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

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 404-ff to read as follows:

§ 404-ff. Distinctive "guardians for schools" license plates. 1. Any person residing in this state shall upon request be issued a distinctive "guardians for schools" license plate bearing the phrase "guardians for schools". Application for said license plates shall be filed with the commissioner in such form and detail as the commissioner shall prescribe.

2. Any distinctive plate issued pursuant to this section shall be issued in the same manner as other number plates upon the payment of the regular registration fee prescribed by section four hundred one of this article provided, however, that an additional annual service charge of twenty-five dollars shall be charged for such plate. Such annual service charge shall be deposited pursuant to the provisions of section four hundred four-oo of this article to the credit of the guardians for schools fund established by section ninety-seven-zzzz of the state finance law, and shall be used for purpose of ensuring increased security in public schools. Provided, however, that one year after the effective date of this section, funds in the amount of five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be available shall be allocated from such fund to the department to offset costs associated with the production of such license plate.

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

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§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-zzzz to read as follows:

§ 97-zzzz. Guardians for schools 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 "guardians for schools fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues received pursuant to the provisions of section four hundred four-ff of the vehicle and traffic law and all other moneys appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. Moneys of the fund shall be expended for the sole purpose of ensuring increased security in public schools, including, but not limited to, helping pay for school resource officers, security training, mental health counseling, metal detectors, security cameras and other school building modifications to improve school safety. The commissioner of education of the state of New York shall establish guidelines and criteria for qualifying expenditures under this subdivision and shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this subdivision.

4. Moneys shall be paid out of the fund on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of education of the state of New York.

5. Any income earned on moneys in the guardians for schools fund shall be added to and used for the purposes of such fund.

6. Monies of the fund shall be used solely for the use of school security measures and may not be diverted into the general fund.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after 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.