STATE OF NEW YORK

379--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. BROUK, CLEARE, PALUMBO, RHOADS, SKOUFIS, TEDISCO, WEBER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a high school robotics participation grant program

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3641-c to read as follows:

§ 3641-c. High school robotics participation grant program. 1. The commissioner shall establish the high school robotics participation grant program and a robotics competition pursuant to this section and regulations of the commissioner adopted for such purpose. Within the amounts appropriated for this purpose, the commissioner shall award grants on a competitive basis to public and private high schools for the purpose of encouraging study in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

2. Eligibility. a. Applicants must be a public or private high school in the state that has a school sponsored robotics club or a team participating, or intending to participate, in robotics competitions.

b. Applicants must establish a partnership for the purposes of designing, building and/or programming the team's robot with at least one other sponsor, which shall be a business, institution of higher learning or technological school. The department shall establish a process to identify and certify which robotics leagues or organizations are approved to hold such robotics competitions, for the purposes of eligibility under this section.

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

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3. Applications. Applications must be submitted to the commissioner by June first of each year for grants to be made for the following academic year. All grants shall be subject to the applicant obtaining matching funds from other sources of at least fifty percent of the grant.

4. Awards. a. The commissioner shall grant awards in the amount of five thousand dollars to schools that are eligible, pursuant to subdivision two of this section. Awards shall be within the amounts appropriated for such purpose and based on availability of funds.

b. Preference shall be given to teams at Title I schools, then to teams at schools that have not previously participated in robotics competitions or received grants through this program, on a first-come first-served basis, and if there are funds remaining thereafter to other previously established programs.

c. Funds awarded under this grant shall be used for: registration costs; materials; travel costs; and other expenses associated with the preparation for, and attendance at, robotics competitions.

d. Additional grants shall also be made pursuant to such other rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the commissioner.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth 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 date.