

This bill was signed by the Governor Wednesday June 17, 2020.

BILL NUMBER: S7996b

SPONSOR: CARLUCCI

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF THE BILL:

Provides that school districts are entitled to an apportionment of state aid for the closure of schools in response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 for the 2019-20 school year.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

Section one of the bill amends Subdivision 7 of section 3604 of the education law, as amended by chapter 605 of the laws of 2019, as it relates to providing school districts an apportionment of state aid for the closure of schools in response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

Section two of the bill sets the effective date.

JUSTIFICATION:

Education Law § 3604 requires that school districts be in session for 180 days, or be at risk of losing State aid. Chapter 605 of the laws of 2019 amended the education law to exempt schools from a reduction in state aid when the school was required to close due to a declaration of a state or local state of emergency.

With the recent rise of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a district's superintendent or the Chancellor of NYC schools may choose to close a school or schools to reduce the spread of this disease. These closures may be ordered out of an abundance of caution to protect the health or safety of the school district.

This legislation will ensure the schools that close in response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, will not be financially penalized in the apportionment of state aid for the 2019-20 school year.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

New Legislation.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK

7996--B

IN SENATE

March 6, 2020

Introduced by Sens. CARLUCCI, MAYER, GOUNARDES, HOYLMAN, KAMINSKY, KAPLAN, KRUEGER, METZGER, RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and

recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the attendance of minors upon full day instruction and the conditions under which districts, including the city school district of the city of New York, are entitled to an apportionment of state aid and the closure of schools due in response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 7 of section 3604 of the education law, as
2 amended by chapter 605 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as
3 follows:
4 7. No district shall be entitled to any portion of such school moneys
5 on such apportionment unless the report of the trustees or board of
6 education for the preceding school year shall show that the public
7 schools were actually in session in the district and taught by a quali-
8 fied teacher or by successive qualified teachers or by qualified teach-
9 ers for not less than one hundred eighty days. The moneys payable to a
10 school district pursuant to section thirty-six hundred nine-a of this
11 part in the current year shall be reduced by one one-hundred eightieth
12 of the district's total foundation aid for the base year for each day
13 less than one hundred eighty days that the schools of the district were
14 actually in session, except that the commissioner may disregard such
15 reduction in the apportionment of public money[,]: (i) for any day or
16 days on which session had been previously scheduled but the superinten-
17 dent was required to close the school or schools due to a properly
18 executed declaration of a state or local state of emergency pursuant to
19 article two-B of the executive law; or (ii) for up to five days if he or
20 she finds that the schools of the district were not in session for one
21 hundred eighty days because of extraordinarily adverse weather condi-

