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**Youth And Government**

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Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 2

Bill #:SF-12

1 **Sponsors:** Wells Liscomb, Kason Romanowski

2

3 **An Act To** Amend bill S-4144 to mandate New York State to alter the State  
4 Foundation Aid formula

5

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

7

8 **Purpose**

9 The purpose of this bill is to alter the Payable State Foundation Aid formula so that  
10 schools are given aid money more effectively based on the amount of students with  
11 Extraordinary needs.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1**

15 **Foundation Aid:** The total financial aid given by the state to public schools.

16 **Public School:** A school supported by public funds, whether through state funding or  
17 taxes.

18 **Extraordinary Needs:** Students who require assistance in their education, whether  
19 the student has a learning disability or the student is an ELL Student.

20 **ELL Student:** A student who has another language as their primary language or is in  
21 the process of learning the English language.

22 **Learning Disability:** A condition giving rise to acquiring knowledge and skills to the  
23 level expected of those the same age.

24

25 **Section 2**

26 **Bill S-4144 is being amended to include subsection 3605-A that will add the total**  
27 **amount of a District's Students who have a Learning Disability to Tier D of the**  
28 **Foundation Aid Payable formula.**

29

30 **Justification**

31 Currently, there are a number of public New York schools that are not being given  
32 enough financial aid by New York State when they require more money to continue  
33 certain programs. Not only is this unfair to the schools who are being paid less than  
34 necessary, but it's also unfair to the local taxpayers, who now have to cover the  
35 rest of the State Aid. This bill would help to bolster a fiscal level playing field, and  
36 help the schools with their budgets. This bill is being written to try to help patch a  
37 problem that has become more and more apparent over the past years. Currently,  
38 the Payable Foundation Aid formula is complicated, with a lot of factors going into  
39 it. The formula is a tiered system, with 10 different tiers. The main tier this group is



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40 focusing on is Tier D, which accounts for ELL students and the Pupil Wealth ratio.  
41 However, Tier D doesn't take into account students with a learning disability. In  
42 fact, none of the tiers do. This bill looks to add the amount of Students with a  
43 Learning Disability to the Foundation Aid Payable formula. Districts currently are  
44 eligible for Tier D benefits if the Public Enrollment increases, the amount of ELL  
45 Students increase, and the Combined Wealth Ratio decreases. If this bill passes,  
46 schools would also qualify if the amount of students who have a Learning Disability  
47 increase by 5% within a given time period.

48

49 **Fiscal Implications**

50 The passing of the bill will cost the state a relatively small amount of money which  
51 will vary depending on each district's total Foundation Aid Payable sum, but will  
52 ultimately lower the local school taxes, as the schools would be receiving more  
53 Foundation Aid

54

55 **Environmental Implications**

56 This bill is expected to have no effect on New York State Wildlife.

57

58 **Effective Date**

59 This bill will go into effect before the next year's state budget is released.