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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #:AF-11

**Sponsors:** Celeste Voutsinas-Klose, Kaila Crouch, Aalia Crouch, Ben Gates

**An Act To**

An act to amend the education law, in relation to providing for security hardware and software safety technology

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

**Purpose**

This bill would amend sections 753, 751, and 3602 of the education law to provide state education aid for school districts that expend resources to improve security and safety technology.

**Summary of Provisions**

More specifically, this bill would amend:

1. Section 753 of the education law, to add security and safety hardware technology, to the list of defined expenditures available for state aid;
2. Section 751 of the education law, to add security and safety technology platforms to the list of items of expenditure that are eligible for an apportionment pursuant to the education law; and
3. Section 3602 of the education law, to add security and safety technology to the list of items eligible for building aid under the education law.

Section 1. Paragraph c of subdivision 2 of section 753 of the education law, as added by section 7-a of part B of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

c. "Technology equipment", for the purposes of this article, shall mean (1) equipment with a useful life used in conjunction with or in support of educational programs including but not limited to video, solar energy, robotic, satellite, laser and such other equipment as the commissioner shall approve OR, (2) SECURITY AND SAFETY HARDWARE TECHNOLOGY provided that expenses for the purchase or lease of such equipment shall not be eligible for aid under any other provisions of this chapter.

§ 2. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 751 of the education law, subdivision 1 as added by chapter 53 of the laws of 1984 and subdivision 2 as amended by section 3 of part A-1 of chapter 58 of the laws of 2011, are amended to read as follows:



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1. In the several cities and school districts of the state, boards of education, trustees or such body or officers as perform the functions of such boards, shall designate software programs to be used in conjunction with computers of the school district OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH SECURITY AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS.

2. A software program, for the purposes of this article shall mean (a) a computer program which a pupil is required to use as a learning aid in a particular class in the school the pupil legally attends, or (b) for expenses incurred after July first, two thousand nine, any content-based instructional materials in an electronic format that are aligned with state standards which are accessed or delivered through the internet based on a subscription model. Such electronic format materials may include a variety of media assets and learning tools, including video,

**Justification**

Recent school attacks across the nation have demonstrated an important need to increase security at schools. Technology can prove a very helpful means to improve security and safety, and this bill would recognize the value of such modern tools to deter attacks, improve safety and provide faster response time, and issue life saving, early and meaningful alerts, warnings and information.

Currently, because of outdated definitions, this new technology is not supported in New York's formulas for school and building aid. This bill would address this issue by updating these definitions, and thereby partnering with school districts across the state to provide an incentive to deploy this important and helpful technology.

With this new technology in schools across the state, students, faculty and visitors would have an improved, more secure environment. Its placement, purchase and deployment would call upon modern means, together with other proven methods already in place, to help make all our state's schools the secure magnets for learning they are meant to be.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

This is a new bill

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would take effect immediately.

**Fiscal Implications** None Noted

**Environmental Implications**