

LEGISLATIVE BILL 880

Approved by the Governor February 12, 2020

Introduced by Groene, 42.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act; to amend sections 79-1022, 79-1022.02, 79-1023, 79-1027, and 79-1031.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019; to change the determination and certification dates relating to the distribution of aid, certification of certain budget limitations as prescribed, and duties of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 79-1022, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

79-1022 (1) On or before May 1, 2020 ~~June 10, 2019~~, and on or before March 1 of each year thereafter, the department shall determine the amounts to be distributed to each local system for the ensuing school fiscal year pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and shall certify the amounts to the Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public Accounts, and each local system. On or before May 1, 2020 ~~June 10, 2019~~, and on or before March 1 of each year thereafter, the department shall report the necessary funding level for the ensuing school fiscal year to the Governor, the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, and the Education Committee of the Legislature. The report submitted to the committees of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, certified state aid amounts, including adjustments pursuant to section 79-1065.02, shall be shown as budgeted non-property-tax receipts and deducted prior to calculating the property tax request in the local system's general fund budget statement as provided to the Auditor of Public Accounts pursuant to section 79-1024.

(2) Except as provided in this subsection, subsection (8) of section 79-1016, and sections 79-1005, 79-1033, and 79-1065.02, the amounts certified pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be distributed in ten as nearly as possible equal payments on the last business day of each month beginning in September of each ensuing school fiscal year and ending in June of the following year, except that when a local system is to receive a monthly payment of less than one thousand dollars, such payment shall be one lump-sum payment on the last business day of December during the ensuing school fiscal year.

Sec. 2. Section 79-1022.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

79-1022.02 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any certification of state aid pursuant to section 79-1022, certification of budget authority pursuant to section 79-1023, and certification of applicable allowable reserve percentages pursuant to section 79-1027 completed prior to the effective date of this act ~~March 1, 2019~~, for school fiscal year 2020-21 ~~are 2019-20~~ is null and void.

Sec. 3. Section 79-1023, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

79-1023 (1) On or before May 1, 2020 ~~June 10, 2019~~, and on or before March 1 of each year thereafter, the department shall determine and certify to each school district budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for the ensuing school fiscal year.

(2) Except as provided in sections 79-1028.01, 79-1029, 79-1030, and 81-829.51, each school district shall have budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures equal to the greater of (a) the general fund budget of expenditures for the immediately preceding school fiscal year minus exclusions pursuant to subsection (1) of section 79-1028.01 for such school fiscal year with the difference increased by the basic allowable growth rate for the school fiscal year for which budget authority is being calculated, (b) the general fund budget of expenditures for the immediately preceding school fiscal year minus exclusions pursuant to subsection (1) of section 79-1028.01 for such school fiscal year with the difference increased by an amount equal to any student growth adjustment calculated for the school fiscal year for which budget authority is being calculated, or (c) one hundred ten percent of formula need for the school fiscal year for which budget authority is being calculated minus the special education budget of expenditures as filed on the school district budget statement on or before September 20 for the immediately preceding school fiscal year, which special education budget of expenditures is increased by the basic allowable growth rate for the school fiscal year for which budget authority is being calculated.

(3) For any school fiscal year for which the budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for a school district is based on a student growth adjustment, the budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for such school district shall be adjusted in future years to

reflect any student growth adjustment corrections related to such student growth adjustment.

Sec. 4. Section 79-1027, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

79-1027 No district shall adopt a budget, which includes total requirements of depreciation funds, necessary employee benefit fund cash reserves, and necessary general fund cash reserves, exceeding the applicable allowable reserve percentages of total general fund budget of expenditures as specified in the schedule set forth in this section.

Average daily membership of district	Allowable reserve percentage
0 - 471	45
471.01 - 3,044	35
3,044.01 - 10,000	25
10,000.01 and over	20

On or before May 1, 2020 ~~June 10, 2019~~, and on or before March 1 each year thereafter, the department shall determine and certify each district's applicable allowable reserve percentage for the ensuing school fiscal year.

Each district with combined necessary general fund cash reserves, total requirements of depreciation funds, and necessary employee benefit fund cash reserves less than the applicable allowable reserve percentage specified in this section may, notwithstanding the district's applicable allowable growth rate, increase its necessary general fund cash reserves such that the total necessary general fund cash reserves, total requirements of depreciation funds, and necessary employee benefit fund cash reserves do not exceed such applicable allowable reserve percentage.

Sec. 5. Section 79-1031.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

79-1031.01 The Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall annually include the amount necessary to fund the state aid that will be certified to school districts on or before May 1, 2020 ~~June 10, 2019~~, and on or before March 1 of each year thereafter for each ensuing school fiscal year in its recommendations to the Legislature to carry out the requirements of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act.

Sec. 6. Original sections 79-1022, 79-1022.02, 79-1023, 79-1027, and 79-1031.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, are repealed.

Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.