

VETO MESSAGE - No. 58

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bills:

Assembly Bill Number 8725, entitled:

"AN ACT to legalize, validate, ratify and confirm certain acts and proceedings of the Salem central school district relating to transportation contracts for the 2007-2008 school year"

Assembly Bill Number 7933, entitled:

"AN ACT to legalize, validate, ratify and confirm a transportation contract of the Canaseraga central school district"

Assembly Bill Number 7991-A, entitled:

"AN ACT to legalize, validate, ratify and confirm certain transportation contracts of the Hamburg central school district"

Assembly Bill Number 7506, entitled:

"AN ACT in relation to capital improvement projects in the Dundee central school district"

NOT APPROVED

These bills would allow local school districts to receive or retain State aid with respect to contracts or expenses which would be eligible for such aid except for the fact that, in each instance, the school district violated bidding or cost reporting requirements of the Education Law or State Education Department regulations.

I am sympathetic to the local school districts that have requested that the State validate these contracts and expenses. However, these bills will either require the State to forgo the recoupment of aid wrongfully paid or to pay aid to which the districts are not legally entitled. In light of the State's grave fiscal situation, I am reluctant to approve these measures due to the adverse impact on State finances.

These bills are disapproved.

(signed) DAVID A. PATERSON

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