

VETO MESSAGE - No. 218

TO THE SENATE:

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

Senate Bill Number 780-A, entitled:

"AN ACT to authorize approval of certain transportation contracts of the Massapequa union free school district"

TO THE ASSEMBLY

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

Assembly Bill Number 5662-A, entitled:

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

Assembly Bill Number 7428, entitled:

"AN ACT relating to the cost allowance used to compute aid for capital improvement projects for the South Country central school district"

NOT APPROVED

Each of these bills would authorize, outside the budget process, payment of State education aid above the amounts calculated and previously agreed to under current law.

Senate Bill Number 780-A and Assembly Bill Number 5662-A would validate certain school district transportation contracts, even though these districts failed to meet long-standing statutory requirements for aid eligibility. Further, these contracts fall outside the scope of forgiveness provisions that were negotiated by the Legislature and the Executive and included in the 2012-13 Enacted Budget, thereby undoing this agreed-upon solution.

Assembly Bill 7428 would allow the South Country Central School District to receive State building aid reimbursement for capital expenditures that were financed with grants rather than with local funds. Allowing State building aid to be paid when there are no actual costs to the local district is an unjustified use of State resources.

Thus, for the reasons stated above, I cannot approve these bills.

These bills are disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO

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