

VETO MESSAGE - No. 170

TO THE SENATE:

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

Senate Bill Number 3927, entitled:

"AN ACT to validate certain acts of the Hendrick Hudson central school district with regard to certain capital improvement projects"

Senate Bill Number 6779, entitled:

"AN ACT to legalize, validate, ratify and confirm the actions of the Panama central school district notwithstanding the failure to timely file final building cost reports with the education department"

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

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

Assembly Bill Number 8062-A, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend chapter 54 of the laws of 2016, directing the commissioner of education on how to recover certain penalties, in relation to the collection of a penalty from the Newburgh city school district"

NOT APPROVED

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

These bills would extend or forgive payback of State building aid payments for the Newburgh City School District, the Panama Central School District, and the Hendrick Hudson Central School District, even though these three districts failed to meet long-standing statutory requirements of aid eligibility. Specifically:

The Newburgh City School District is seeking to extend payback of its currently-owed building aid penalty for ten years. However, the District previously obtained relief, as the District received a five-year extension to repay its outstanding penalty as part of the 2016-2017 State budget.

The Panama Central School District is seeking forgiveness of certain building aid penalties. However, the District previously obtained relief, as it received a ten-year extension to repay its outstanding penalty as part of the 2013-2014 State budget, and is eligible to take advantage of extended building aid penalty payback and forgiveness provisions included in the 2017-18 State budget. Moreover, the District has also received financial aid covering the annual cost of its penalty repayment through funding in each of the last four state budgets.

The Hendrick Hudson Central School District is seeking forgiveness of certain building aid penalties. The District was granted authority to establish a special tax stabilization reserve fund as part of the 2017-18 State budget to help ease future changes to the District's established tax base. Further, I have established a Task Force to address the impact of Indian Point nuclear power plant's closure, and have included an education representative from my office on that Task Force. I am

acutely concerned with the long-term financial viability of this community after Indian Point closes, and will continue to work with local leaders and state legislators to find ways to address the needs of the school district and community, including through State budget negotiations.

Collectively, each of these bills would result in increased and unbudgeted state costs that will necessarily burden taxpayers. For these reasons, these bills must continue to be addressed within the context of enacting the overall State budget. I am therefore constrained to veto these bills.

These bills are disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO
