Committee on General Welfare

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**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION**

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**COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE**

**Hon. Stephen Levin, Chair**

**November 23, 2021**

**INT. NO. 150-A:** By Council Members Levin, Brannan, Powers, Rosenthal, Salamanca, Chin, Lander, Barron, Rivera and Gennaro

**TITLE:** A Local Law in relation to a task force regarding the transportation of students in temporary housing

**INT. NO. 148-A:** By Council Members Levin, Brannan, Maisel, Ayala, Rosenthal, Powers, Kallos, Dinowitz, Adams, Menchaca, Reynoso, Rose, Rivera, Louis, Lander, Koo, D. Diaz and Riley

**TITLE:** A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring that the department of social services recognize time spent in foster care for the purpose of rental voucher eligibility

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds new section to the Administrative Code

**INT. NO. 2405-A:** By Council Members Levin, Rose, Dinowitz, Brannan, Kallos, Adams, Menchaca, Rosenthal, Reynoso, Rivera, Louis, Lander, Koo, D. Diaz and Maisel

**TITLE:** A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to runaway and homeless youth eligibility for rental assistance

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds new section to the Administrative Code

1. **Introduction**

On November 22, 2021, the Committee on General Welfare, chaired by Council Member Stephen Levin, held a hearing on Proposed Int. 150-A, Proposed Int. 148-A, and Proposed Int. 2405-A, each sponsored by Council Member Levin. The Committee previously held a hearing on Proposed Int. 150-A, Proposed Int. 148-A, and Proposed Int. 2405-A, on April 16, 2021, November 24, 2020 and October 25, 2021, respectively. At the hearings, those who testified included representatives from DSS, ACS, shelter providers, advocacy organizations, community organizations, legal providers, and members of the public. At the hearing on November 22, 2021, the Committee voted 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions on Proposed Int. 150-A, Proposed Int. 148-A and Proposed Int. 2405-A.

1. **Bill Analysis**

**Int. 150-A** - A Local Law In relation to a task force regarding the transportation of students in temporary housing

The proposed legislation would require the creation of a task force regarding the transportation of students in temporary housing. The task force would be comprised of individuals including the commissioners of the Department of Social Services and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development; the Deputy Chancellor for School Climate and Wellness at the Department of Education (DOE), which oversees student transportation, family assistants from the DOE; representatives of organizations that provide shelter for families with children; representatives of companies that provide student-busing services; and additional members. The task force would issue a report assessing barriers to arranging transportation for students in temporary housing and recommendations for addressing those barriers. The task force would also report on any recommendations that are implemented 12 and 24 months after its submission of the initial report. The task force would terminate upon the publication of the report issued 24 months after submission of the initial report. Since introduction, this bill was amended to require that the task force meet a number of times sufficient to achieve its purpose as opposed to on a quarterly basis. Additionally, since introduction, the bill was amended to include additional members of the task force such as the Chairperson of the Council’s Committee on General Welfare and at least two parents of students who are or were formerly students in temporary housing. If passed, this bill would take effect immediately.

**Int. 148-A** – A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring that the department of social services recognize time spent in foster care for the purpose of rental voucher eligibility

This bill would allow youth who have spent time in foster care to be eligible for CityFHEPS rental assistance vouchers. Any 90 days of the previous two years spent in foster care would count as time spent in shelter for purposes of determining eligibility for the vouchers. The provision of vouchers to such individuals would be subject to appropriation. If passed, this bill would take effect 120 days after it becomes law. This bill has not changed significantly since introduction.

**Int. 2405-A** – A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to runaway and homeless youth eligibility for rental assistance

This bill would allow youth who have spent time in runaway and homeless youth services funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to be eligible for CityFHEPS rental assistance vouchers. Any 90 days of the previous two years spent in these services would count as time spent in shelter for purposes of determining eligibility for the vouchers. The provision of vouchers to such individuals would be subject to appropriation. If passed, this bill would take effect 120 days after it becomes law. This bill has not changed significantly since introductio

Int. No. 150-A

By Council Members Levin, Brannan, Powers, Rosenthal, Salamanca, Chin, Lander, Barron, Rivera and Gennaro

A LOCAL LAW..Title

In relation to a task force regarding the transportation of students in temporary housing

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Family assistant. The term “family assistant” means department of education staff assigned to work with shelters and schools to assist families in temporary housing with obtaining transportation assistance and other services for which they are eligible.

Shelter. The term “shelter” means temporary emergency housing provided to homeless individuals and families by the department of homeless services, the department of social services, the department of housing preservation and development, or a provider under contract or similar agreement with such agencies.

Students in temporary housing. The term “students in temporary housing” has the same meaning as that of the term “homeless children and youths” as defined in subsection 2 of section 11434a of title 42 of the United States code and also includes unaccompanied youth who do not have a fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence, provided that such individuals are enrolled in a school.

Unaccompanied youth. The term “unaccompanied youth” means students not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian, including young people who have run away from home, have been kicked out of their homes, or have been abandoned by their parent or legal guardian.

b. Transportation of students in temporary housing task force. There shall be a task force regarding the transportation of students in temporary housing consisting of at least nineteen members. Members of the task force shall be appointed by the mayor. Such task force shall include the following members:

1. the deputy chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York tasked with overseeing issues of school climate and wellness, or their designee, who shall serve as chair;

2. the commissioner of the department of social services, or their designee;

3. the highest-level staff person of the city school district of the city of New York, tasked with overseeing pupil transportation, or their designee;

4. the highest-level staff person of the human resources administration tasked with overseeing domestic violence and HIV/AIDS services administration, or their designees;

5. the commissioner of the department of housing preservation and development, or their designee;

6. the deputy chancellor for operations of the city school district, or their designee;

7. at least two family assistants and at least one high level staff person tasked with overseeing issues related to students in temporary housing in the city school district;

8. at least two representatives of organizations that provide shelter for families with children;

9. at least two representatives of advocacy organizations with relevant expertise in transportation for students in temporary housing;

10. at least two representatives of entities that have contracted with the city school district to provide transportation services for students in such district;

11. at least two parents of students who are currently or were formerly students in temporary housing; and

12. the chairperson of the council committee on general welfare, or their designee.

c. All members of the task force shall serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the mayor. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. All members shall be appointed within 60 days of the enactment of this local law.

d. The task force shall meet a number of times sufficient to achieve its purpose and shall submit a report of its recommendations to the mayor and the speaker of the council no later than 12 months after the final member of the task force is appointed. Such report shall include an assessment of the barriers to arranging transportation including bus service, subway service, and other forms of transportation for students in temporary housing and recommendations for addressing such barriers. The report shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations for interagency protocols designed to:

1. ensure the prompt provision of transportation during conditional shelter placements;

2. ensure the prompt provision of transportation for students found eligible for shelter;

3. ensure the prompt provision of transportation for students transitioning from shelter to permanent housing for the remainder of the school year;

4. ensure the prompt provision of transportation, including the prompt provision of public transit passes for systems outside of New York city, for students who are temporarily residing outside of New York city or for students in temporary housing who have secured permanent housing outside of New York city and continue enrollment in New York city for the remainder of the school year;

5. ensure reimbursement for transportation expenses when transportation has not been promptly arranged for students in temporary housing;

6. ensure the prompt provision of transportation for students living in domestic violence shelters that ensures the safety of such students and that does not improperly disclose confidential information;

7. ensure the prompt provision of transportation for students living in HIV/AIDS services administration shelters that ensures the safety of such students and that does not improperly disclose confidential information;

8. ensure the prompt provision of transportation for eligible students in temporary housing who are enrolled in 3-K, Pre-K, Head Start, preschool special education classes, or preschool special classes in integrated settings, and for preschool students with disabilities living in temporary housing receiving related services when related services are provided at a related services agency outside the home or preschool setting; and

9. ensure the prompt provision of transportation for students in temporary housing so that they may participate in extracurricular activities, including COMPASS and other after-school and summer programs.

e. The task force shall report on any such recommendations that are implemented to the mayor and the council no later than 12 and 24 months following the submission of the initial report, after which the task force will cease to exist.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

AV/ACK

LS #10606/Int. 1641-2017

LS 764

11/15/2021 6:11pm

Int. No. 148-A

By Council Members Levin, Brannan, Maisel, Ayala, Rosenthal, Powers, Kallos, Dinowitz, Adams, Menchaca, Reynoso, Rose, Rivera, Louis, Lander, Koo, D. Diaz and Riley

A LOCAL LAW

To..Title

TToT amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring that the department of social services recognize time spent in foster care for the purpose of rental voucher eligibility

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-145.1 to read as follows:

§ 21-145.1 Rental assistance for youth in foster care. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Youth in foster care. The term “youth in foster care” means a young person who was placed in an out-of-home placement with ACS after the filing of a petition in family court pursuant to article 3, 7, 10, 10-a, 10-b or 10-c of the family court act or section 358-a or 384-b of the social services law.

Rental assistance. The term “rental assistance” means subsidies provided through the rental assistance program established in chapter 10 of title 68 of the rules of the city of New York and any successor program.

b. Eligibility. Subject to appropriation, for purposes of determining eligibility, for any youth in foster care or an individual who was formerly a youth in foster care, the department shall count the time such youth spent in foster care during any 90 days of the previous two years in place of time spent in shelter provided by the department or by a provider under contract or similar agreement with the department, provided that the youth in foster care is otherwise found eligible for rental assistance.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

ACK

LS #9351/Int. No. 1597-2017

LS# 760

11/15/2021 7:12pm

Int. No. 2405-A

By Council Members Levin, Rose, Dinowitz, Brannan, Kallos, Adams, Menchaca, Rosenthal, Reynoso, Rivera, Louis, Lander, Koo, D. Diaz and Maisel

A LOCAL LAW..Title

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to runaway and homeless youth eligibility for rental assistance

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-145.2 to read as follows:

§ 21-145.2 Rental assistance for runaway and homeless youth. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Homeless young adult. The term “homeless young adult” has the same meaning as provided in section 532-a of the executive law.

Homeless youth. The term “homeless youth” has the same meaning as provided in section 532-a of the executive law. For purposes of this section, the term homeless youth also includes youth up to the age of 25 as provided in section 21-401.

Rental assistance. The term “rental assistance” means subsidies provided through the rental assistance program established in chapter 10 of title 68 of the rules of the city of New York and any successor program.

Runaway and homeless youth crisis services program. The term “runaway and homeless youth crisis services program” has the same meaning as provided in section 532-a of the executive law.

Runaway and homeless youth services. The term “runaway and homeless youth services” means runaway and homeless youth crisis services programs, transitional independent living support programs and drop-in centers funded by the department of youth and community development.

Runaway youth. The term “runaway youth” has the same meaning as provided in section 532-a of the executive law.

Transitional independent living support program. The term “transitional independent living support program” has the same meaning as provided in section 532-a of the executive law.

b. Eligibility. Subject to appropriation, for purposes of determining eligibility, the department shall count the time a runaway youth or homeless youth spent in runaway and homeless youth services during any 90 days of the previous two years in place of time spent in shelter provided by the department or by a provider under contract or similar agreement with the department, provided that the youth in runaway and homeless youth services is otherwise found eligible for rental assistance.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

SG/ACK

LS #17172

11/15/2021 9:44pm