Education Committee Staff

Nadia Jean-François, *Counsel*

Jan Atwell, *Senior Policy Analyst*

Chloë Rivera, *Senior Policy Analyst*

Nia Hyatt, *Senior Financial Analyst*

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Frank Perez, *Community Engagement Liaison*



**The Council of the City of New York**

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE DIVISION**

Andrea Vazquez*, Director*

Smita Deshmukh, *Deputy Director, Human Services*

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Hon. Rita Joseph, *Chair*

**May 25, 2023**

**PROPOSED INTRODUCTION NO. 566-A:** By Council Members Feliz, Hanif, Marte, Brewer, Yeger, Avilés, Nurse, Gutiérrez, Brannan, Sanchez, Holden, Brooks-Powers, Narcisse, Louis, De La Rosa, Stevens, Lee, Krishnan, Farías, Hudson, Menin and Schulman

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring all children with an individualized education program to be transported in buses with air-conditioning

1. **Introduction**

On May 25, 2023, the Committee on Education, chaired by Council Member Rita Joseph, will consider Proposed Introduction Number (“Int. No.”) 566-A, sponsored by Council Member Oswald Feliz, related to requiring all children with an individualized education program to be transported in buses with air-conditioning. The Committee previously held a hearing on Int. No. 566 on March 29, 2023. At that hearing, the Committee heard testimony from the Department of Education, community-based organizations, service providers and members of the public.

1. **Bill Analysis**

**Proposed Int. No. 566-A – A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring all children with an individualized education program to be transported in buses with air-conditioning**

Subdivision b of section 19-605 of the administrative code requires that “[a]ny bus or other motor vehicle transporting a child with a disability to and from a school in the city pursuant to any agreement or contract shall be air-conditioned when the ambient outside temperature exceeds seventy degrees Fahrenheit.” This bill would amend the applicable definition of a “child with a disability” in section 19-605 to include all children with disabilities as defined by section 4401(1) of the New York State Education Law, covering all children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and not just those whose IEP requires an air-conditioned environment for health reasons. Since it was heard, this bill received technical edits and the effective date was amended to September 1, 2035.

Proposed Int. No. 566-A

By Council Members Feliz, Hanif, Marte, Brewer, Yeger, Avilés, Nurse, Gutiérrez, Brannan, Sanchez, Holden, Brooks-Powers, Narcisse, Louis, De La Rosa, Stevens, Lee, Krishnan, Farías, Hudson, Menin and Schulman

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring all children with an individualized education program to be transported in buses with air-conditioning

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 19-605 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 63 for the year 2003, is amended to read as follows:

§ 19-605[.] Air-conditioning. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the term “child with a disability” has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision 1 of section 4401 of the education law.

b. Any bus or other motor vehicle transporting a child with a disability to and from a school in the city pursuant to any agreement or contract shall be air-conditioned when the ambient outside temperature exceeds [seventy] 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Drivers of all such vehicles shall utilize such air conditioning systems [in order] to make the internal climate of such vehicles comfortable to passengers [in order] to protect or enhance the health of children with disabilities. Any failure, mechanical or otherwise, of an air-conditioning system required by this section shall be repaired and restored to operable condition as soon as is practicable, but in no event more than [three] 3 business days subsequent to the failure. [For purposes of this section, “child with a disability” shall mean a child with a disability as defined in section 4401(1) of the education law who requires an air-conditioned environment for health reasons.]

[b.] c. The penalty provisions set forth in section 19-607 [of this chapter] shall not apply to any violation of the provisions of this section. Any owner, operator or contractor responsible for transporting a child with a disability to and from a school in the city pursuant to any agreement or contract shall be liable for a civil penalty of [four hundred dollars] $400 for each violation of this section.

§ 2. This local law takes effect September 1, 2035.

Session 12

MHL/NJF

LS #8563

05/17/23 3:50pm

Session 11

AES/MAJ

LS #563

Int. 575-2018