



## LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION

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December 14, 2023

Governor Kathy Hochul  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

RE: S.1045 (Cooney) / A.1567 (McDonald) Relates to payments in lieu of taxes

Dear Governor Hochul:

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition *supports* the above referenced legislation and urges the Governor to sign this bill.

Since 1976, the Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) has been a leading regional public education advocacy voice and resource for the 77 public school districts in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. Our districts educate over 239,000 students and encompass more than 1.7 million community members.

This bill would make a technical amendment to the property tax cap by incorporating the value of new property on the exempt side of the tax roll, due to a payment in lieu in taxes (PILOT) agreement, as part of the “tax base growth factor.”

Under current law, the change in assessed value for each property on the exempt side of the tax rolls under PILOT agreements is not included when the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance calculates the quantity change factor for local governments. This bill would address that loophole and would ensure that real property improvements made under PILOT agreements are accounted for.

The Tax Base Growth Factor is meant to ensure that as a local community grows, the revenues collected reflect the services being provided. This is not a tax increase, but rather a recognition that all factors must be considered within the two percent tax cap to provide school districts and municipalities more flexibility.

For these reasons, LHEC supports this legislation and respectfully requests that the Governor signs the bill into law.

Sincerely,

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition