A RESOLUTION

24-269

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to adjust certain allocations in the Fiscal Year 2021 Local Budget Act of 2020 and to amend the deadline for the annual advance payment to schools.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Fiscal Year 2021 Revised Local Budget COVID Relief and Advance School Payment Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Council previously approved a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

(b) Since the time the Fiscal Year 2021 budget and financial plan was approved, the federal government appropriated approximately $2.8 million in COVID public health emergency relief funds as federal payments to the District of Columbia.

(c) Pursuant to section 446(c) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 774; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.46(c), the Council must appropriate those federal payments prior to obligation or expenditure.

(d) Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget are necessary to appropriate these additional federal payments and to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impact on District residents and businesses.

(e) The Fiscal Year 2021 Local Budget Act of 2020, effective October 20, 2020 (D.C. Law 23-136; 67 DCR 13201), requires advance payments to District of Columbia Public Schools and District of Columbia public charter schools to be appropriated on July 1, 2021, based on certain percentages of the total amount of appropriated local funds in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget as approved by the Council.

(f) Due to the ongoing public health emergency, the transmission of the Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021 was delayed and second and final reading for the bill is scheduled for August 3, 2021, which would prevent the Mayor from making the advance school payments as currently prescribed.

(g) There is an immediate need for public schools and public charter schools to have sufficient funding to prepare for the new school year.

(h) The Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021, which will provide the appropriation for public schools and public charter schools, is scheduled for first reading on July 20, 2021. In order to provide timely payments to support the education needs of students, the Fiscal Year 2021 Local Budget Act of 2020 must be amended to allow determination of the advance payment amount to be based on the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation as approved on first reading, rather than second reading, and to change the date of the advance payment appropriation from July 1, 2021 to July 20, 2021..

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Fiscal Year 2021 Revised Local Budget Advance School Payment Emergency Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.