The purpose of the proposed amendment is to remove the constitutional debt limitation currently imposed on small city school districts. A small city school district is one that is partly or wholly within a city having fewer than one hundred twenty-five thousand inhabitants.

The State Constitution currently provides that small city school districts are not allowed to contract indebtedness for education purposes that would exceed an amount equal to five percent of the average full valuation of taxable real estate in the school district. This limitation may be exceeded in relation to specified projects with voter approval and the consent of the Regents of the University of the State of New York and the State Comptroller. Similar constitutional debt limitations are currently provided for counties, cities, towns and villages, but no other school districts. Other school districts currently are subject to a statutory debt limitation of ten percent of the full valuation of taxable real property in the school district. The proposed amendment would eliminate the constitutional debt limitation applicable to small city school districts. If this amendment passes, an amendment to state law will take effect, rendering small city school districts subject to the same ten percent limitation applicable to other school districts.
Removal of Small City School Districts
From Special Constitutional Debt Limitation

The proposed amendment to Article 8, section 4 of the Constitution would remove the special constitutional debt limitation currently imposed on small city school districts, and thereby subject them to the same limits applicable to other school districts. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?