

HOUSE No. 2403

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 14, 1948.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom were recommitted the Bill relative to school funds and state aid for public schools (House, No. 2182, amended) and the Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Ways and Means to include the subject-matter of a Bill relative to school funds and state aid for public schools in its investigation and study of matters pertaining to the finances of the Commonwealth (House, No. 2392), report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2403).

For the committee,

CHARLES GIBBONS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SCHOOL FUNDS AND STATE AID FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The General Laws are hereby amended
2 by striking out chapter 70, as amended, and inserting
3 in place thereof the following: —

4 CHAPTER 70.

5 SCHOOL FUNDS AND STATE AID FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

6 *Section 1.* To promote the equalization of educa-
7 tional opportunity in public schools of the common-
8 wealth and the equalization of the burden of the
9 cost of schools to the respective towns, the state
10 treasurer shall annually pay to the several towns
11 sums as provided in this chapter, which sums shall
12 be known as school aid.

13 *Section 2.* The present school fund of the com-
14 monwealth, known as the Massachusetts School
15 Fund, with future additions, shall continue to con-
16 stitute a permanent fund. The commissioner of
17 education, hereinafter referred to as the commissioner
18 and the state treasurer shall continue to be commis-
19 sioners to invest and manage said fund, and they

20 shall annually report the condition and income
21 thereof. All investments shall be made with the
22 approval of the governor and council. The annual
23 income of the Massachusetts School Fund shall be
24 expended in accordance with the provisions of section
25 three.

26 *Section 3.* The state treasurer shall annually, on
27 or before November twenty, pay to the several
28 towns the amounts required under this chapter.
29 The revenue of the Massachusetts School Fund, any
30 federal funds available for the purposes of this
31 chapter, and such additional amounts as may be
32 necessary from the proceeds of the taxation on in-
33 comes under chapter sixty-two or, if such proceeds
34 are insufficient, from such other revenues as may be
35 appropriated therefor, shall be applied to such pay-
36 ments. The amount of such grant for each town
37 shall be determined annually by the commissioner
38 from the returns required by this chapter and by
39 chapter seventy-two for the preceding school year,
40 and shall be fifty per cent of the amount by which
41 the foundation program as defined in section four
42 exceeds the product of each one thousand dollars of
43 the equalized valuation of such town multiplied by
44 six.

45 *Section 4.* The foundation program shall be an
46 amount of one hundred and thirty dollars for each
47 person between the ages of seven and sixteen in the
48 several cities and towns as determined in the regis-
49 tration of minors required by section two of chapter
50 seventy-two, which amount shall be increased or de-
51 creased by one dollar for each one hundred million
52 dollars or major fraction thereof of increase or de-
53 crease respectively in the total equalized valuation

54 of the state, after the effective date of this act;
55 provided, however, in any town of less than five
56 thousand population, the foundation program may,
57 on approval of the commissioner, be the product of
58 one hundred and twenty-five dollars multiplied by
59 the number of equivalent full-time teachers, princi-
60 pals, supervisors and guidance directors in the
61 public day schools of such town multiplied by
62 twenty-three.

63 *Section 5.* For the purposes of section nine of this
64 chapter, the net average membership in the public
65 day schools of a town for any school year shall be
66 the average membership for such year as shown by
67 the school registers, increased by the number of pu-
68 pils resident therein whose tuition in the public
69 schools of another town, for not less than half such
70 year, the town has paid, decreased by the number of
71 non-resident pupils attending its schools for not less
72 than half such year.

73 *Section 6.* No allotment to a town under this
74 chapter shall be less than the amount of the reim-
75 bursement to such town in the year nineteen hundred
76 and forty-eight under the provisions of this chapter
77 and of sections five, eight, ten, and thirty-eight A
78 of chapter seventy-one which were then in force.

79 *Section 7.* The equalized valuation of a town for
80 the purposes of this chapter shall be the valuation
81 established by the general court for the purpose of
82 this chapter, or, if no such valuation is made the
83 last preceding valuation made for the purpose of
84 apportioning the state tax.

85 *Section 8.* A town shall not be eligible to receive
86 said school aid in any year if the amount expended

87 for school support, exclusive of cost of transporta-
88 tion and of noon lunches and cafeterias, during the
89 preceding year was less than one hundred and ten
90 dollars per pupil in net average membership in the
91 public day schools in such town, unless the commis-
92 sioner recommends otherwise.

93 *Section 9.* Every superintendent of schools shall
94 file annually with the commissioner, not later than
95 July thirty-one, a sworn statement, upon blanks
96 prepared by the commissioner, containing the data
97 necessary to determine the amounts payable under
98 this chapter. The commissioner shall cause such
99 statements to be examined and shall, not later than
100 November one, certify to the comptroller the amount
101 due each town for payment by the state treasurer
102 in accordance with section three.

103 *Section 10.* School committees shall annually, in
104 submitting estimates of the amount of money neces-
105 sary for the proper maintenance of the schools,
106 include their estimate of the amount of school aid
107 the town will receive under this chapter, and of other
108 reimbursements to be received from the common-
109 wealth on account of the support of schools. In
110 making recommendations for appropriations for the
111 support of schools the finance committee of towns
112 and similar committees in cities shall specify the
113 estimated amount to be received as such school aid
114 or reimbursements from the commonwealth and the
115 amount to be raised by local taxation.

116 *Section 11.* The income of the Todd Fund shall
117 be paid to the department of education, and applied
118 by it to specific objects, in connection with the
119 teachers' colleges, not provided by appropriation.

1 SECTION 2. Sections five, eight, and nine of
2 chapter seventy-one of the General Laws are hereby
3 repealed.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect January
2 first, nineteen hundred and forty-nine.

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