
By Mr. Wojtkowski of Pittsfield, petition of the Statewide Committee for School Aid and others for legislation to increase state aid for public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO INCREASE STATE AID FOR 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. Section 1 of chapter 70 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in section 1 of chapter 643 of the acts of 1948, is
3 hereby amended by inserting after the word "aid", in line 6,
4 the words: — and shall be expended for the current support of
5 schools, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 1.* To promote
6 the equalization of educational opportunity in public schools of
7 the commonwealth and the equalization of the burden of the
8 cost of schools to the respective towns, the state treasurer shall
9 pay annually to the several towns sums as provided in this
10 chapter, which sums shall be known as school aid and shall be
11 expended for the current support of schools.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 70 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 3, as amended by section 2 of chapter 599
3 of the acts of 1956, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 *Section 3.* The state treasurer shall annually on or before
6 May fifteenth of the year following the due date of the certifica-
7 tion by the commissioner, as required by section nine, pay to
8 the several towns the amounts required under this chapter to
9 the extent that funds are then available under section eighteen
10 of chapter fifty-eight of the General Laws, and on or before
11 October fifteenth of such year pay the balance, if any, of such

12 amounts. The revenue of the Massachusetts school fund, any
13 federal funds available for the purposes of this chapter, and such
14 additional amounts as may be required, not exceeding in any
15 year one half of the total amount payable to the towns under
16 this chapter, from the proceeds of the taxation of incomes
17 under chapter sixty-two, or, if such proceeds are insufficient,
18 from such other revenues as may be appropriated therefor, shall
19 be applied to such payments. The amount of such grant for
20 each town shall be determined annually by the commissioner
21 from the returns required by this chapter and by chapter
22 seventy-two for the preceding school year, and shall be the
23 amount by which the foundation program, as defined in section
24 four, exceeds the product of each one thousand dollars of the
25 equalized valuation of such town multiplied by six; provided,
26 however, no town shall, under this section, receive in any year
27 less than forty dollars for each person between the ages of five
28 and sixteen years as determined in the previous year in the
29 registration of minors required by section two of chapter
30 seventy-two.

1 SECTION 3. Section 4 of said chapter 70 is hereby amended
2 by striking out in line 6, as appearing in section 1 of chapter 643
3 of the acts of 1948, the words "one dollar" and inserting in
4 place thereof the words: — eighty-four cents, — and by striking
5 out in line 3 the words "seven and sixteen" and inserting in
6 place thereof the words: — five and sixteen.

1 SECTION 4. Said chapter 70 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 6, as amended by section 1 of chapter 592
3 of the acts of 1951, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 *Section 6.* The amount of school aid payable to any town
6 under section three in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-
7 eight, and annually thereafter, shall be reduced in the amount
8 by which the expenditures by such town in the preceding year
9 for school support, exclusive of expenditures for school trans-
10 portation, school lunches and tuitions, was less than the product

11 of sixty-five per cent of the average of such expenditures per
12 pupil in average membership in the state multiplied by the
13 number of such pupils in the town.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect as of January first,
2 nineteen hundred and fifty-nine.

