

By Mr. Lombard of Fitchburg, petition of Gerald P. Lombard and another that cities and towns be reimbursed for the cost of maintaining public transportation for the transportation of school pupils. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE COSTS INCURRED IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM USED FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS IN CITIES AND TOWNS.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out section 7B, added by section 8 of chapter 563 of
3 the acts of 1964, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 *Section 7B.* To provide for the reimbursement of the whole
6 or part of the cost not reimbursable under section seven A
7 incurred directly by a school department or indirectly by a city
8 or town on account of any assessment made to meet the cost
9 of maintaining a public transportation system used for the
10 transportation of pupils in a city or town using public transpor-
11 tation facilities licensed under the provisions of sections one
12 and seven of chapter one hundred and fifty-nine A or operated
13 under the provisions of chapter one hundred and sixty-one A
14 for the transporting of pupils to and from school who reside
15 more than one and one half miles from the school they attend
16 as determined by the commissioner, or, if the determination of
17 the number of pupils residing more than one and one half
18 miles from the school of attendance is impracticable, the
19 commissioner shall make such determination according to the
20 following formula: From the net average membership in the
21 public and private schools determined as provided in section
22 five of chapter seventy, the commissioner shall estimate the

23 number of pupils who reside more than one and one half miles
24 from the school they attend which number shall not exceed
25 ten per cent of said net average membership.

26 The commissioner shall on or before November first of each
27 year, certify to the state tax commission a transportation
28 allowance payable to such city or town for the preceding
29 school year, the amount of such allowance to be determined
30 by him by multiplying the number of pupils or the estimated
31 number of pupils residing more than one and one half miles
32 from the school by the average cost per pupil in the city or
33 town for transporting all such pupils.

34 Funds received by each city or town shall be used to pay
35 the cost of providing public transportation or to reimburse a
36 city or town for payments on account of any assessment made
37 upon it to meet the cost of maintaining a public transportation
38 system, provided that notwithstanding the provisions of this
39 section, no amount shall be approved as a reimbursement by
40 the commissioner as herein provided in excess of the amount
41 to be paid by such a city or town for said public transporta-
42 tion.