

HOUSE No. 59

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

31 ST. JAMES AVENUE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116, NOVEMBER 1, 1978

The Honorable Paul H. Guzzi, *Secretary of State*
State House, Room, 340, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Secretary Guzzi: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 33 of Chapter 30 of the General Laws, I submit herewith three bills recommended by the Board of Education for legislative action during the 1979 session of the General Court.

Sincerely,

GREGORY R. ANRIG,
Commissioner of Education

*LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*

1. AN ACT TO ASSIST TOWNS WHICH ARE NEWLY ADMITTED TO AN EXISTING REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

By adding a new section to Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948, the School Building Assistance law, this legislation would provide state assistance to a community based upon the costs associated with joining an existing regional school district. The Board of Education will determine the admission price by considering the cost of constructing and originally equipping the regional school building, including any additions, and the interest charged. Five percent of those construction costs will be allowed for maintenance and other capital costs. The manner in which the regional school district would receive the assistance money will be covered in the regional school district agreement.

2. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS ATTENDING CERTAIN FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH.

Currently, under Sections 27 and 28 of Chapter 19 of the General Laws, local school departments are responsible for the transportation costs of certain mentally retarded persons who are attending facilities approved by the Department of Mental Health. Any city or town whose school system pays for the transportation required under this section is reimbursed by the Department of Education for one half of the cost of transporting a retarded child (i.e., under 18) and for the full cost of transporting a retarded adult (i.e., 18 or older) to and from such a facility. This legislation transfers the financial responsibility for the transportation costs of these individuals to the Department of Mental Health. A specific exclusion is included for persons receiving services under Chapter 71B of the General Laws.

3. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING INSTRUCTION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Section 3 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws requires that physical

education be provided daily for all pupils in the public schools. The daily requirement has proven to be unrealistic and costly for many school systems resulting in varying degrees of compliance with the law. Under this amendment, physical education would remain as a required course although the scheduling of the classes would be left to the discretion of the local school committee.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general description of the country and its resources. It is followed by a detailed account of the various industries and occupations of the people. The report concludes with a summary of the principal facts and a list of the names of the persons who have been instrumental in the progress of the country.

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