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such larger amounts as may be approved by the commissioners and the Norfolk county advisory board. All sums so borrowed shall be deposited into said account established under section one.

SECTION 4. The administrator of Norfolk County Hospital shall file with the county commissioners, the Norfolk county advisory board, the county treasurer, and the bureau of accounts, a written report of the special account established under the provisions of section one within one hundred and twenty days after the end of the fiscal year. Such report shall include financial statements relating to the operation, maintenance, capital and real properties of said hospital. The administrator shall annually, not later than sixty days prior to the expiration of each fiscal year, submit to the county commissioners and the county advisory board a financial plan in such form as the board of trustees may approve.

Said financial plan must be approved by the Norfolk county commissioners and the Norfolk county advisory board prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The board of trustees of Norfolk County Hospital may authorize expenditures up to ten per cent more than presented in the approved financial plan. If the board of trustees of Norfolk County Hospital wish to increase expenditures by more than ten per cent of the amount as presented in the approved financial plan, a revised financial plan shall be submitted to the Norfolk county commissioners and the Norfolk county advisory board for their approval.

SECTION 5. In order that the fiscal affairs of the hospital may be managed by the hospital board of trustees so as to reduce the cost to the taxpayers, an assessment need not be rendered at the close of any fiscal year in which a deficit occurs.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved November 23, 1983.

Chap. 515. AN ACT RELATIVE TO SCHOOL BUILDING ASSISTANCE, AS IT PERTAINS TO ANNUAL GRANT PAYMENTS AND THE ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION OF RACIAL IMBALANCE.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The definition of "Approved school project" in section 5 of chapter 645 of the acts of 1948, as amended by

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section 4 of chapter 613 of the acts of 1982, is hereby further amended by adding the following three sentences:- Said definition of approved school project shall include a capital project required, in the judgment of the commission, for the improvement of a schoolhouse or central kitchen when general reconstruction, remodeling, rehabilitation, or modernization of the schoolhouse is not required and the schoolhouse or central kitchen otherwise meets the standards of the commission; provided, however, that the contract or contracts for any such project is awarded on or after January first, nineteen hundred and eighty-two. In the case of projects, the construction of which has been undertaken before the effective date of this act, application shall be made within one hundred and twenty days after such effective date, and in the case of all other projects, before construction has been undertaken. Improvement of a schoolhouse shall include, but shall not be limited to, projects required to make a school accessible to the physically handicapped, projects required to rebuild, reconstruct, or replace the roof of a schoolhouse where such project is not due to a pattern of deferred maintenance, for such projects designed to make a school building more energy efficient, for projects required to eliminate a structural safety hazard, or for projects designed to improve the drainage or sewage systems on the site, or to provide site improvements related to physical education, outdoor education, or safety.

SECTION 2. Section 7 of said chapter 645 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence, as amended by section 1 of said chapter 613, and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:- Such cost shall include fifty per cent of the interest paid or payable by such city, town or county and the entire interest paid or payable by such regional school district on any bonds or notes issued to finance such project; provided, however, that in the case of school projects ordered or approved by a court as necessary for desegregation or such projects as may be required in the judgment of the board of education to reduce or eliminate racial imbalance or imbalance of minority students; such cost shall include one hundred per cent of the interest paid or payable by such city; provided, further, that in the case of a school project for a growth district as classified according to section nine of this act such cost shall include one hundred per cent of the interest paid or payable by such district. For purposes of this section the term "minority student" shall mean persons who are American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders, blacks not of Hispanic origin, Hispanics, Franco-Americans, and Portuguese, and, as determined by the commissioner of education, persons who are from environments in which the dominant language is other than English and who, as a

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result of language barriers and cultural differences, do not have an equal educational opportunity.

SECTION 3. Section 9 of said chapter 645, as most recently amended by section 2 of said chapter 613, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, for any approved school project on which construction is commenced after June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and eighty-two and which is financed in whole or in part from the proceeds of any sale of bonds or notes, the construction grant shall be paid annually for the number of years equal to the number of years for which any indebtedness incurred for such project shall be outstanding; provided, however, that a city, town or regional school district may request that the total construction grant may be paid in unequal annual payments and such payments shall be set forth in a schedule approved by the board. Such annual payments, if unequal, shall be in an amount which bears the same ratio to the total estimated or final approved grant as the annual payment on account of principal and interest bears to the estimated or final aggregate amount determined to be paid and payable over the term of any such indebtedness and such payments shall begin in the fiscal year in which debt service on account of any bonds or notes issued to finance the project become payable or in the fiscal year in which construction of the project is commenced; provided, however, that, in no case, shall any such annual payment be made until construction of the project has commenced. In the event that the total construction grant or total amount of debt service cannot be determined at the time the first annual payment is due, the board of education shall estimate the amounts of the total construction grant and the total amount of debt service and use such estimates in determining the amount of payments.

SECTION 4. Chapter 613 of the acts of 1982 is hereby amended by striking out section 3 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 3. Notwithstanding any provision of section one I of chapter fifteen of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the board of education may increase the amount of grants for school construction submitted or approved after December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and eighty-one and prior to July first, nineteen hundred and eighty-four to an amount not to exceed ninety per cent of the approved cost whenever the board is satisfied that the acquisition, construction, enlargement, renovation, reconstruction, rehabilitation or modernization of a schoolhouse is for the purpose of reducing

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or eliminating racial imbalance or imbalance of minority students; provided, however, that any such grant for an amount greater than seventy-five per cent of the approved cost shall be approved by the board of education with the concurrence of the house and senate committees on ways and means. For the purposes of this section, the term "minority student" shall mean persons who are American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders, blacks, not of Hispanic origin, Hispanics, Franco-Americans, and Portuguese, and as determined by the commissioner of education, persons who are from environments in which the dominant language is other than English and who, as a result of language barriers and cultural differences, do not have an equal educational opportunity.

Approved November 23, 1983.

Chap. 516. AN ACT FURTHER DEFINING A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN AND REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION OR CARRYING OF A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 121 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 892 of the acts of 1973, is hereby further amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:- In sections one hundred and twenty-two to one hundred and thirty-one F, inclusive, "firearm" shall mean a pistol, revolver or other weapon of any description loaded or unloaded, from which a shot or bullet can be discharged and of which the length of the barrel or barrels is less than sixteen inches or eighteen inches in the case of a shotgun as originally manufactured, and the term "length of barrel" shall mean that portion of a firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun through which a shot or bullet is driven, guided or stabilized, and shall include the chamber. A "Sawed-off shotgun" shall mean any weapon made from a shotgun, whether by alteration, modification or otherwise, if such weapon as modified has one or more barrels less than eighteen inches in length or as modified has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches.

SECTION 2. Section 10 of chapter 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out subsection (c), as amended by section 2 of chapter 175 of the acts of 1978, and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-