

HOUSE No. 4027

By Mr. Losh of Holliston, petition of John C. Losh that cities and towns be authorized to limit public school budgets. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT TO LIMIT PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGETS.

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

1 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any
2 city council or town meeting may refuse to grant funds for
3 the annual school budget which exceed the amount set forth
4 in the following formula:—
5 The state department of education shall annually compile
6 accurate information leading to an average per pupil cost
7 figure. Cities and towns shall keep accurate records of annual
8 school enrollment. The proposed minimum annual school
9 budget for any year shall be determined by combining the
10 previous school enrollment number with an average of all
11 school enrollment increases from any given school year to the
12 next school year within a preceding five year period; and
13 multiplying the resulting number by the average per pupil
14 cost as supplied by department of education, then adjust the
15 resulting figure by the cost of living index. The figure
16 resulting from an average of school enrollment increases over
17 a five year period may be changed by appeal to a board to
18 consist of two members of the Massachusetts board of educa-
19 tion, two members of the state finance board, and one member
20 of the department of urban affairs, each of whom shall be
21 appointed by the respective heads of their departments. The
22 findings of this board shall be binding on both city or town
23 officials or school committee. Any change in the average

24 increased enrollment figure made by the said board of appeals
25 shall be based solely upon certified figures showing an antici-
26 pated substantial change in school enrollment for the coming
27 school year.

28 No part of this act shall be deemed to limit a city or town
29 from providing school funds in excess of the formula set forth
30 herein.