

HOUSE No. 2721

By Mr. McGlynn of Medford, petition of Ronald J. Fitzgerald, Michael J. McGlynn, Stephen W. Doran and another that provision be made for vocational technical equipment grants for cities, towns and regional school districts. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

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 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 5B the following section: —

3 There is hereby established a Vocational-Technical Equipment
4 Modernization grant program for the purpose of supplementing
5 equipment purchases in cities, towns, and regional school districts,
6 educational collaboratives or independent vocational-technical
7 schools for programs in high occupational demand.

8 Each city, town or regional school district, educational
9 collaborative or independent vocational-technical school shall
10 receive, subject to appropriation, as hereinafter provided, an
11 equipment grant.

12 On or before February fifteen, nineteen hundred and eighty-
13 seven, the commissioner of education shall distribute an amount
14 not to exceed ten million dollars to cities, towns and regional
15 school districts. The purpose of such distribution shall be to award
16 equipment grants. The amount awarded to a city, town, regional
17 school district, educational collaborative, or independent
18 vocational-technical school shall be the amount ten million dollars
19 multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the
20 Weighted Full Time Equivalency (WFTE) of pupils enrolled in
21 the approved Chapter 74 program of the city, town, regional
22 school district, educational collaborative, or independent
23 vocational-technical school and the denominator of which shall

24 be the Weighted Full Time Equivalency of pupils enrolled in
25 approved Chapter 74 programs of all cities, towns, and regional
26 school.

27 The state board of education shall establish state grants for the
28 purpose of funding the development of new, and modification of
29 existing, secondary and postsecondary and adult vocational-
30 technical programs to reflect new and evolving technologies, to
31 help satisfy unmet training needs of existing and potential
32 employers and industries, or otherwise strengthen the economic
33 vitality of the Commonwealth.

34 The Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of
35 Economic Affairs and the Secretary of Labor, under the direction
36 of the state board, shall establish a state grant incentive program
37 for the purpose of assisting cities, town, regional school districts,
38 education collaborative, or independent vocational schools to
39 create new, or modify and improve existing Chapter 74 secondary,
40 postsecondary and adult programs.

41 In making such program incentive grants, the Commissioner
42 under the direction of the state board shall develop criteria which
43 shall take into consideration the financial ability of the school
44 district to establish new programs, the cost of released staff time
45 necessary to develop new curriculum, the cost of training existing
46 staff in new and evolving technologies, the cost of making minor
47 modifications to existing facilities to accommodate new or
48 enhanced programs, the costs of instructional materials and
49 supplies, and the cost of associated equipment acquisition.