

By Mr. McCarthy of East Bridgewater, petition of Carl W. Eastman and Robert E. McCarthy relative to eliminating the one and one-half mile provision of the law providing for reimbursement by the Commonwealth to cities, towns and regional school districts for the transportation of pupils. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ELIMINATING THE ONE AND ONE-HALF MILE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO CITIES, TOWNS AND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 7A of chapter 71
2 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 48
3 of chapter 14 of the acts of 1966, is hereby further amended
4 by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof
5 the following sentence: — The state treasurer shall annually,
6 on or before November twentieth, pay to the several towns
7 subject to appropriation, the sums required as reimbursement
8 for expenses approved by the commissioner of education,
9 incurred by any town for the transportation of pupils once
10 daily to and from any school within the town, or in another
11 town, in excess of five dollars per annum per pupil in the net
12 average membership of such town; provided, (a) that the
13 amount of grant, per pupil, for transportation to private
14 schools in towns which furnish such transportation, shall not
15 exceed the amount of grant per pupil for transportation to
16 public schools and (b) that no contract shall be awarded except
17 upon the basis of prevailing wage rates, as hereinafter provided,
18 and of sealed bids, and the school committee shall, in the event

19 that a contract is awarded to other than the lowest bidder, file
20 with the department a written statement giving its reasons
21 therefor, which statement shall be open to the public in-
22 spection.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 70 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 16C, as most recently amended by sec-
3 tion 49 of said chapter 14, and inserting in place thereof the
4 following section: -

5 *Section 16C.* The regional school district shall be subject to
6 all laws pertaining to school transportation; and when the
7 agreement provides for the furnishing of transportation by the
8 regional school district, the commonwealth shall reimburse such
9 district to the full extent of the amounts expended for such
10 transportation. The state treasurer shall annually, on or before
11 November twentieth, pay to the regional school districts, sub-
12 ject to appropriation, the sums required for such reimburse-
13 ment and approved by the commissioner of education.