

By Mr. Sullivan of Norwood, petition of Gregory W. Sullivan and Marie-Louise Kehoe relative to regional school district budgets. Education, Arts and Humanities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-One.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 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 SECTION 1. Paragraph six of Section 16B of Chapter 71 of  
2 the General Laws, as appearing in the Official Edition of 1988,  
3 is hereby amended after the first sentence by adding in line 74 the  
4 following new sentence: —

5 Said amended budget shall reflect the specific concerns and  
6 budget recommendations made by the nonapproving member  
7 municipalities.

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 16B of said Chapter 71 is hereby  
2 amended by adding after paragraph seven in line 104 the following  
3 new paragraph: —

4 Notwithstanding any general or special law or any municipal  
5 charter to the contrary, each member municipality may adopt the  
6 following provision by a majority vote of the town meeting, town  
7 council meeting or city council meeting. Each member  
8 municipality, so adopting this provision, shall hereby authorize  
9 its board of selectmen, board of aldermen, or mayor to act on  
10 behalf of such municipality in lieu of its appropriating authority  
11 for the sole purpose of approving or disapproving the revised and  
12 resubmitted budget within the above stated thirty days. Each  
13 finance committee of the member municipalities acting pursuant  
14 to this provision shall make recommendations to the entity so  
15 acting on behalf of said municipality as to whether said budget  
16 should be approved or disapproved by said municipality. Such

17 authorization, however, shall expire at the commencement of the  
18 next town meeting, town council meeting, or city council meeting,  
19 special or annual, whichever occurs first. Upon expiration of such  
20 authorization, member municipalities may act in accordance with  
21 the provisions as otherwise provided by this section. Renewal of  
22 such authorization may be effected pursuant to this paragraph.

1 SECTION 3. Said Section 16B of said Chapter 71 is hereby  
2 amended in said line 104 by adding after section 2 of this Act the  
3 following: —

4 Notwithstanding any general or special law or any municipal  
5 charter to the contrary, but subject to the review and approval  
6 of the director of accounts in the department of revenue, in the  
7 event that the regional school district budget has not been duly  
8 approved by the member municipalities before July first of the  
9 fiscal year in which said budget is to be apportioned, the respective  
10 treasurers of such municipalities may pay to the treasurer of such  
11 regional school district, at the time of the first payment required  
12 under the terms of the regional school district agreement and  
13 subsequently on a monthly basis until said budget has been  
14 approved, but in no case beyond October fifteenth of said fiscal  
15 year, a sum equal to one-twelfth the total amount apportioned  
16 and certified to such municipality for the preceding fiscal year.  
17 The treasurer of any such regional school district is hereby  
18 authorized to expend all funds so paid by each member  
19 municipality and in addition thereto, all available funds, state  
20 receipts and any other funds ordinarily received for the operation  
21 of the regional school district at a level no higher than the annual  
22 budget for the preceding fiscal year.

23 Upon approval of the regional school district budget by the  
24 member municipalities acting under the provisions of the above  
25 paragraph, the treasurer of said regional school district shall  
26 deduct from the amounts so certified or recertified to each member  
27 municipality all amounts previously paid to the district on account  
28 of the fiscal year for which said budget has been approved and  
29 the balance payable by each municipality shall be paid to the  
30 regional school district in accordance with the terms of the  
31 agreement.