

By Mr. Tarr of Gloucester, petition of Bruce E. Tarr and Robert C. Buell for legislation to provide reimbursement to certain municipalities under the school choice program. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM.

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. (a) For the purpose of providing financial
2 reimbursement to communities for monies expended pursuant to
3 the provisions of section three hundred and four of chapter one
4 hundred and thirty-eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and
5 ninety-one, there is hereby established the school choice relief
6 program of nineteen hundred and ninety-one. Said program shall
7 be administered by the secretariat of education.

8 (b) Any community which expends, as a result of the school
9 choice provisions of said section three hundred and four, an
10 amount of money equal to two percent or more of its total school
11 budget may apply for reimbursement; provided, however, that
12 only students who have transferred from the applicant
13 community, pursuant to the provisions of said section, between
14 the dates of June thirtieth and September fifth, nineteen hundred
15 and ninety-one shall be included in the calculations used to
16 determine the amount of said reimbursement.

17 (c) In order to qualify for said reimbursement, a community
18 shall submit, on or before June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and
19 ninety-two an application requesting reimbursement. Said
20 application shall set forth (i) the identification of the school
21 system of the applicant community, (ii) the number of students
22 involved in said school system, (iii) the total amount of school

23 aid received by said school system under the provisions of chapter
24 seventy of the General Laws for the previous fiscal year, (iv) the
25 per pupil cost of education in the community to whom the student
26 has transferred, (v) the total school operations budget, and
27 (vi) the total dollars leaving that budget to the receiving school.

28 (d) In addition to the above information, the applicant
29 community shall also submit a performance improvement plan
30 which shall contain information, recommendations and
31 suggestions relative to (1) areas needing improvement within the
32 school system of the applicant, (2) methods of improvement to
33 the employed, (3) goals and objectives of said improvement, and
34 (4) results intended to be accomplished within one year from the
35 date of application.

36 (e) Said improvement plan and the information required under
37 the provisions of clause (c) shall be reviewed by the secretariat
38 of education and no reimbursement shall be allowed until said
39 secretariat has certified that both the required information and
40 the plan have been completed as prescribed herein. Such plan shall
41 be certified prior to the transfer of monies which are due under
42 the provisions of said chapter seventy in December of nineteen
43 hundred and ninety-one.

44 (f) The applicant community shall also submit with its
45 application a Regionalization Reasonability Assessment. Said
46 assessment shall set forth (i) all communities which are receiving
47 students from the applicant community under the school choice
48 provisions of said section three hundred and four and (ii) other
49 communities which might reasonably be included, along with the
50 applicant in a regional school district.

51 (g) In no event shall the amount of monies disbursed under the
52 provisions of the School Choice Relief Program exceed the total
53 amount of money owed to the communities to which students were
54 transferred.