

By Mr. Alexander of Marblehead, petition of Lawrence R. Alexander relative to further regulating the support of schools. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

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AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

*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. Section 34 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as  
2 amended by Chapter 294 of the Acts of 1939, is hereby further  
3 amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following sentence: — Except as hereinafter provided,  
5 every city and town shall annually provide an amount of money  
6 sufficient for the support of the public schools as provided by this  
7 chapter.

1 SECTION 2. Said Chapter 71 is hereby further amended by  
2 inserting after Section 34E the following section:—

3 *Section 34F.* Notwithstanding the provisions of Section Thirty-  
4 four, a city council, board of aldermen or town meeting may delete  
5 or reduce any new expenditure or item increase in the school  
6 budget for the preceding year. In a town meeting such deletion  
7 shall require the approval of at least four-fifths of the persons  
8 present and voting, and in a city council or a board of aldermen  
9 such deletion shall require the approval by a vote of four-fifths of  
10 the entire membership and if the application of the four-fifths vote  
11 shall result in a fractional number, in order to carry the measure the  
12 number required shall be equal to the next highest digit. If a city  
13 has a bicameral type of government then this authority shall be  
14 vested in the board of aldermen of such city.

15 This section shall take effect in a city or town upon its acceptance  
16 by the voters thereof at a state or municipal election. Upon petition

17 of five per cent of the registered voters of a city or town the  
18 following question shall be placed upon the official ballot to be  
19 used at the next election, state or municipal, to be held in said city  
20 or town: — “Shall the provisions of Section Thirty-Four F of  
21 Chapter Seventy-One of the General Laws, authorizing the dele-  
22 tion or reduction of certain expenditures in school budgets, be  
23 accepted by the (city) (town) of ( )?” If a majority of the votes in  
24 answer to said question is in the affirmative, then said Section shall  
25 thereupon take full effect, but not otherwise.

1 SECTION 3. The second paragraph of section 7 of chapter  
2 150E of the General Laws, as appearing in chapter 1078 of the Acts  
3 of 1973, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence  
4 contained therein.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 71 is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 161, the following section:—

3 *Section 16J.* Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16B a  
4 city council, board of aldermen, or town meeting of a municipality  
5 that is a member of a regional school district may vote to delete or  
6 reduce any new expenditure or item increase in that regional school  
7 district’s budget over the budget of the preceding year. In a town  
8 meeting such deletion or reduction shall require the approval by a  
9 vote of four-fifths of the entire membership and if the application  
10 of the four-fifths vote shall result in a fractional number in order to  
11 carry the measure, the number required shall be equal to the next  
12 highest digit. If a city has a bicameral type of government then this  
13 authority shall be vested in the board of aldermen of such city. If all  
14 of the cities and towns in the district vote in the above manner to  
15 delete or reduce, by an identical amount, any new expenditure or  
16 item increase in the regional school district’s budget, such deletion  
17 or reduction shall be made by the regional school committee.

18 This section shall take effect in a regional school district upon its  
19 acceptance by the voters thereof at a state election. Upon petition  
20 of five percent of the registered voters of a regional school district  
21 the following question shall be placed upon the official ballot to be  
22 used at the next state election to be held in the municipalities  
23 comprising the regional school district: — “Shall the provisions of

24 section 16J of chapter 71 of the General Laws, authorizing the  
25 deletion or reduction of certain expenditures in regional school  
26 budgets, be accepted by the regional school district of ( )?" If a  
27 majority of the votes cast in the district in answer to said question is  
28 in the affirmative, then said section shall thereupon take full effect,  
29 but not otherwise.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is noted that the weather has been very dry and hot, and that the crops are suffering. The government has taken steps to provide relief to the people, and it is hoped that these measures will be successful.

SECTION II. THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The state of the country is generally one of distress. The people are suffering from want and disease, and the government is doing all in its power to relieve them. It is necessary to take prompt action to prevent a general famine.

The government has decided to issue a proclamation ordering the people to observe a day of fasting and prayer. It is also necessary to take steps to improve the roads and to provide for the transport of food and supplies.

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