

By Mr. Coury of New Bedford, petition of Edward P. Coury that cities and towns be authorized to delete new expenditures or item increases in school budgets. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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
7 this chapter.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 71 is hereby further amended by
2 inserting after section 34C the following section: —
3 *Section 34D.* Notwithstanding the provisions of section
4 thirty-four, a city council, board of aldermen or town meeting
5 may delete any new expenditure or item increase in the school
6 budget over the budget for the preceding year. In a town meeting
7 such deletion shall require the approval of at least four-fifths of
8 the persons present and voting, and in a city council or a board
9 of aldermen such deletion shall require the approval by a vote of
10 four-fifths of the entire membership and if the application of the
11 four-fifths vote shall result in a fractional number, in order to
12 carry the measure the number required shall be equal to the next
13 highest digit. If a city has a bicameral type of government then
14 this authority shall be vested in the board of aldermen of such
15 city.

16 This section shall take effect in a city or town upon its
17 acceptance by the voters thereof at a state or municipal election.
18 Upon petition of five per cent of the registered voters of a city or
19 town the following question shall be placed upon the official
20 ballot to be used at the next election, state or municipal, to be
21 held in said city or town: – “Shall the provisions of section 34D
22 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, authorizing the deletion of
23 certain expenditures in school budgets, be accepted by the (city)
24 (town) of ()?” If a majority of the votes in answer to said
25 question is in the affirmative, then said section shall thereupon
26 take full effect, but not otherwise.