

ASSEMBLY, No. 3753

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO
District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Reduces tax levy for free public libraries to one-sixth of a mill per dollar of assessable property.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/5/2009)

A3753 PRIETO

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1 AN ACT reducing certain tax levies, and amending R.S.40:54-8 and
2 P.L.1959, c.155.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. R.S.40:54-8 is amended to read as follows:

8 40:54-8. The governing body or appropriate board of every
9 municipality governed by this article shall annually appropriate and
10 raise by taxation a sum equal to **[one-third]** one-sixth of a mill on
11 every dollar of assessable property within such municipality based
12 on the equalized valuation of such property as certified by the
13 Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the
14 Treasury.

15 Such additional sum, as in the judgment of such body or board
16 is necessary for the proper maintenance of a free public library, may
17 be appropriated and raised by taxation, annually.

18 (cf: P.L.1985, c.541, s.1)

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20 2. Section 2 of P.L.1959, c.155 (C.40:54-29.4) is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 2. The governing bodies of such municipalities shall propose
23 such an undertaking by a joint library agreement, which shall
24 provide for the apportionment of annual and special appropriations
25 therefor among such municipalities, for the initial annual
26 appropriation for such library, for the abandonment or the
27 continuance of such agreement in the event that it is not approved
28 by all such municipalities as provided for in this act, and for such
29 other matters as they shall determine. Such apportionment of
30 appropriations may be based on the assessed valuations of the
31 respective municipalities, their populations, or such factor or
32 factors as the governing bodies shall agree.

33 Such an agreement shall provide that the combined minimum
34 appropriation for the joint library shall annually be not less than
35 **[one-third]** one-sixth of a mill on every dollar of assessable
36 property within the participating municipalities based upon the
37 equalized valuation of such property within the combined
38 municipalities as certified by the Director of the Division of
39 Taxation in the Department of the Treasury.

40 (cf: P.L.1988, c.38, s.2)

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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STATEMENT

This bill would reduce the amount that a municipality is required to appropriate and raise by taxation for a free public library. Current law requires municipalities with a free public library to raise and appropriate one-third of a mill per each dollar of assessed property value for the library. The level of appropriations for municipalities with a joint library is the same amount under current law. In both cases, this amount would be adjusted to one-sixth of a mill on each dollar of assessed property value.

R.S.40:54-8 was first enacted in 1937, and has not been amended since 1985. Similarly, N.J.S.A. 40:54-29.4, although enacted later, has not been amended since 1988. The equalized value of property throughout the State has risen substantially in recent years. Because these statutes have not been amended to change the proportional obligation of each municipality to fund its public library, many municipalities are collecting monies in excess of the needs of their public library systems.