

ASSEMBLY, No. 2167

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2010

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Permits municipal board of library commissioners to reduce library tax rate when municipality acquires new ratables.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning reductions in municipal library taxes under
2 certain circumstances and amending R.S.40:54-8.

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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. a. 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 of a mill on every dollar
11 of assessable property within such municipality based on the
12 equalized valuation of such property as certified by the Director of
13 the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury, except
14 as provided in subsection b. of this section.

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

18 b. The board of library commissioners annually may adopt a
19 resolution reducing the amount that the municipality is required to
20 raise by taxation pursuant to subsection a. of this section, when it
21 determines that due to a recent increase in ratables for the
22 municipality, it requires less funding than would be provided under
23 subsection a. of this section. The tax rate that is imposed following
24 a resolution adopted pursuant to this subsection shall ensure that the
25 amount that the municipality is required to raise by taxation is at
26 least equal to the amount raised to fund the municipal library
27 budget for the year prior to the increase in ratables.

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

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill would permit a municipal board of library
36 commissioners to request that the municipal governing body reduce
37 the amount of taxes assessed for library purposes, normally one-
38 third of a mill on every dollar of assessable property within the
39 municipality based on the equalized valuation of such property, for
40 any year in which it determines that it requires less funding due to
41 an increase in ratables. For example, if a new mall opens up in the
42 municipality, under current law, the municipality would collect the
43 one-third of a mill tax from the mall property and appropriate that
44 money to the board of library commissioners to be used for library
45 purposes. That increased funding may not be necessary to the

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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1 library commissioners since the mall does not increase the
2 population of residents using the municipal library and does not
3 require any increased capital expenditures by the library
4 commissioners. Therefore, the board of library commissioners
5 should have the authority to request that the library tax rate be
6 reduced in order save the taxpayers from unnecessary tax
7 assessments. Under the bill, the reduced tax rate would have to
8 remain at a level that ensures that the municipal library budget is
9 funded at the same level as it was for the year prior to the increase
10 in ratables.