

ASSEMBLY, No. 6033

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Provides emergency State school aid to certain school districts located in historic communities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency State school aid for certain school
2 districts and supplementing chapter 58 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. For the 2019-2020 through 2024-2025 school years, the
9 Commissioner of Education shall provide emergency aid to a school
10 district, upon the school district's submission of an application for
11 the emergency aid, if:

12 (1) the school district is located in a municipality listed on the
13 national and State registers of historic places;

14 (2) the school district is comprised of only one school building
15 that was originally built by the federal government and will revert
16 to the federal government if the school building ceases to operate;

17 (3) the students enrolled in the school district demonstrate a
18 high level of academic achievement;

19 (4) the school district demonstrates that without the emergency
20 aid, the district is at risk of closing its school building, and the
21 closure of the building will have a negative impact, not only on the
22 students who attend the school, but on the quality of life of the
23 residents of the community at large and the historic legacy of the
24 community; and

25 (5) the school district is subject to reductions in State aid
26 pursuant to the provisions of subsection b. of section 4 of P.L.2018,
27 c.67 (C.18A:7F-68), and those reductions have directly impacted
28 the ability of the school district to continue to operate the school
29 building.

30 b. The commissioner shall review the school district's
31 application for emergency aid, and if the application adequately
32 demonstrates that the school district meets the criteria established
33 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the commissioner shall
34 provide the school district with emergency aid in an amount equal
35 to the school district's reduction in State aid for that budget year.

36 Prior to making a determination, the commissioner may request
37 that the district provide such additional supporting information and
38 documentation as the commissioner deems necessary.

39 c. A school district that seeks emergency aid pursuant to this
40 section shall submit a separate emergency aid application for each
41 school year.

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43 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill establishes a process for the allocation of emergency aid
48 to school districts that have a single school building that has a

1 significant historic legacy, and the reduction in State aid to that
2 school district may result in the closure of the school building and
3 consequently the loss of that legacy.

4 Under the bill's provisions, upon the submission of an
5 application, the Commissioner of Education will provide emergency
6 aid for the 2019-2020 through 2024-2025 school years to a school
7 district that meets the following criteria:

- 8 • The school district is located in a municipality listed on the
9 national and State registers of historic places;
- 10 • The school district is comprised of only one school building
11 that was originally built by the federal government and will
12 revert to the federal government if the school building ceases
13 to operate;
- 14 • The students enrolled in the school district demonstrate a
15 high level of academic achievement;
- 16 • The school district demonstrates that without the emergency
17 aid, the district is at risk of closing its school building, and
18 the closure of the building will have a negative impact on the
19 students, the residents of the community at large, and the
20 historic legacy of the community;
- 21 • The school district is subject to reductions in State aid under
22 P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.), and those reductions
23 have directly impacted the ability of the school district to
24 continue to operate the school building.

25 The commissioner will review the school district's application
26 and may ask for any additional supporting information and
27 documentation that he deems necessary. If the application and
28 information adequately demonstrates that the school district meets
29 the criteria, the commissioner will provide emergency aid in an
30 amount equal to the school district's reduction in State aid for that
31 budget year.

32 The provision of emergency aid under this bill addresses the fact
33 that some school districts face unique circumstances and that it is in
34 the best interests of the State to recognize and address those
35 circumstances.