

SENATE, No. 1224

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Senators GORMLEY, CIESLA, Singer, Connors,  
Bryant and Adler

1 AN ACT concerning State school aid for certain school districts and  
2 supplementing P.L.1990, c.52 (C.18A:7D-1 et al).

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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. a. In addition to any State school aid to which a school district  
8 is entitled under P.L.1990, c.52 (C.18A:7D-1 et al.) or any other law,  
9 in each school year a school district, which is located in whole or in  
10 part in a municipality which contains a Regional Growth Area as  
11 designated by the Pinelands Commission in the comprehensive  
12 management plan developed pursuant to P.L.1979, c.111 (C.13:18A-1  
13 et seq.), shall be eligible to receive additional State school aid. The  
14 additional aid shall equal .05 of the per pupil aid amount as calculated  
15 pursuant to subsection b. of this section x the district's resident  
16 enrollment for the prebudget year.

17 b. The per pupil aid amount shall be calculated by dividing the  
18 total Statewide foundation aid entitlement for the budget year by the  
19 total Statewide resident enrollment for the prebudget year.

20 c. In the event that a municipality which contains a Regional  
21 Growth Area is a constituent district of a regional school district, the  
22 additional State aid shall be paid to the regional school district on  
23 behalf of the pupils who reside in that municipality.

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25 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
26 State aid for the 1996-97 school year.

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29 STATEMENT

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31 Pursuant to the "Pinelands Protection Act," P.L.1979, c.111, the  
32 Pinelands Commission was charged with developing a comprehensive  
33 management plan for the Pinelands the purpose of which was to  
34 determine the amount and type of human development which various  
35 areas of the Pinelands might accommodate. Under that plan, the  
36 commission established eight management areas governing the general

1 distribution of land uses and intensities in the Pinelands. One of those  
2 management areas is that of Regional Growth Areas which are defined  
3 as "those areas within the Pinelands which are capable of  
4 accommodating regional growth influences while protecting the  
5 essential character and environment of the Pinelands." As a result of  
6 the designation of Regional Growth Areas within certain  
7 municipalities, those municipalities have experienced an accelerated  
8 rate of growth in relation to surrounding areas and have had to bear  
9 the costs associated with this growth including significant increases  
10 in their school age populations. This bill recognizes the burdens which  
11 this increased growth rate in the school age population has placed on  
12 those municipalities by establishing a new category of State school aid  
13 directed towards school districts located in such municipalities.

14 Under the bill's provisions, any school district which is located in a  
15 municipality which contains Regional Growth Areas as designated by  
16 the Pinelands Commission shall be eligible to receive additional State  
17 school aid. The additional aid shall equal .05 of the per pupil aid  
18 amount x the district's resident enrollment for the prebudget year. The  
19 per pupil aid amount shall be calculated annually by dividing the total  
20 Statewide foundation aid entitlement for the budget year by the total  
21 Statewide resident enrollment for the prebudget year. For the 1996-97  
22 school year, the additional per pupil aid would equal approximately  
23 \$112 per pupil and would be distributed to 21 school districts which  
24 are located in municipalities which have Regional Growth Areas  
25 within their borders.

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30 Provides additional State school aid to school districts located in  
31 municipalities which contain Regional Growth Areas.