



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6994

LCO No. 4739

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FISCAL DISPARITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section and section 13a-175a of
2 the general statutes, as amended by this act:

3 (1) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
4 Management;

5 (2) "Municipality" means any town, consolidated town and city or
6 consolidated town and borough;

7 (3) "Population" for each municipality means the number of people
8 according to the most recent estimate of the Department of Public
9 Health;

10 (4) "Adjusted equalized net grand list per capita" means the most
11 recent adjusted equalized net grand list per capita determined for each
12 municipality pursuant to section 10-261 of the general statutes;

13 (5) "Equalized mill rate" means the tax rate derived from the most
14 recent available grand levy of a municipality divided by the equalized

15 net grand list on which such levy is based as determined by the
16 secretary in accordance with section 10-261a of the general statutes;

17 (6) "Grand levy" means the mill rate of the municipality multiplied
18 by the net taxable grand list of the municipality and includes the value
19 of special service districts if such districts contain fifty per cent or more
20 of the value of total taxable property within the municipality; and

21 (7) "Region" means a planning region designated or redesignated by
22 the secretary pursuant to section 16a-4a of the general statutes.

23 (b) On or before July 15, 2001, and annually thereafter, the secretary
24 shall submit to the Governor a list of municipalities that have (1) an
25 equalized mill rate that is fifty per cent more than the average
26 equalized mill rate of the region in which the municipality is located;
27 (2) an equalized grand list that is forty per cent less than the average
28 equalized grand list of the region in which the municipality is located;
29 (3) a median household income which is thirty per cent less than the
30 average median household income of the region in which the
31 municipality is located; or (4) a decrease in population in the year of
32 the latest equalized mill rate from the average population of the
33 previous five years.

34 (c) Within thirty days of submission of the list prepared pursuant to
35 subsection (b) of this section, the Governor shall convene a meeting of
36 the chief elected officials in each region in which a municipality
37 identified on the list is located. If any such municipality does not have
38 a chief elected official, a member of its legislative body shall be chosen
39 by a majority vote of such body to represent the municipality at the
40 meeting. The member of the legislative body chosen under this section
41 shall be deemed to be the chief elected official of such municipality for
42 the purposes of the meeting. The Governor shall provide notice of such
43 meeting to each chief elected official by certified mail, return receipt
44 requested. Each chief elected official receiving a notice under this
45 section shall participate in the process set forth in this section.

46 (d) On or before October thirtieth in the year of identification of a
47 municipality under subsection (b) of this section, the chief elected
48 officials shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing committee
49 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to local
50 government a methodology to address the problems of the
51 municipality through intertown collaboration and action. On or before
52 October thirtieth in the second year after identification, the chief
53 elected officials shall prepare a specific implementation strategy that
54 addresses the fiscal capacity of the municipality. Thereafter, the plan
55 shall be revised annually until the municipality no longer meets the
56 qualifying standards of subsection (b) of this section.

57 (e) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, within
58 available funds, shall provide necessary staff and resources to assist
59 municipalities in preparing the methodology and strategy required
60 under subsection (c) of this section.

61 Sec. 2. Section 13a-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

63 (a) For each fiscal year there shall be allocated fourteen million six
64 hundred thousand dollars out of the funds appropriated to the
65 Department of Transportation, or from any other source, not otherwise
66 prohibited by law, to be used by the towns for construction,
67 reconstruction, improvement or maintenance of highways, sections of
68 highways, bridges or structures incidental to highways and bridges or
69 the improvement thereof, including the plowing of snow, the sanding
70 of icy pavements, the trimming and removal of trees, the installation,
71 replacement and maintenance of traffic signs, signals and markings,
72 and for traffic control and vehicular safety programs, traffic and
73 parking planning and administration, and other purposes and
74 programs related to highways, traffic and parking, and for the
75 purposes of providing and operating essential public transportation
76 services and related facilities.

77 (b) The Governor may require the Commissioner of Transportation

78 to withhold all or a portion of the funds allocated under this section to
79 a municipality that the Governor determines has failed to participate
80 in the process set forth in section 1 of this act.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish criteria identifying municipalities with fiscal disparities and to require preparation of a methodology addressing the problems of the municipality through intertown collaboration and action.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]