



**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.

81 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

