

Date:
3/12/07

Bill Number:
7351

Education Committee,

Sorry to submit testimony. It was my intention to testify in person, but got on the list and 6 1/2 hrs of counting has made that impossible.

I am testifying on HB 7351 - Textbook Loans.

I commend Chairman Friesman's efforts to amend the current statute & recognizing the difficulty municipalities have in implementing the loan.

As a member of Manchester's Board of Directors, we allocated \$50,000 outside of the \$93 million BOE Budget to make this happen. We are one of only a handful of 169 towns to try & implement this program. We support the change to allow the purchase of text books outside the public schools curriculum but have difficulty with the second part of the legislation that allows participation by non-residents. As a Director, I cannot approve local tax funds being spent for non-residents. BOE concentrate on Public School funding and are also less inclined to approve programming or funding for non-residents. Please consider re-drafting your proposal or leave well-enough alone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheri Pelletier
Director - Town of Manchester