

HOUSE No. 387

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to the determination and distribution of state aid for education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO DETERMINING THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL STATE AID FOR EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Property and income, being the two main measures
2 of a community’s wealth or “ability to pay,” shall be given equitable
3 weight in calculating the distribution of state education aid as well as
4 the current number of pupils in each municipality. A formula based
5 on only one measure of wealth will never produce a fair and accu-
6 rate gauge of every community’s ability to pay. There are unique
7 regional demographics and economic factors in the Commonwealth
8 that make it impossible. Therefore, notwithstanding the provisions
9 of any general or special law to the contrary, it is the intention of the
10 general court to assure fair and adequate funding for public schools
11 in the Commonwealth by defining a balanced standard of local
12 funding based on median income, with every community having the
13 choice of state aid as determined by Chapter 70 Section 10 or
14 Chapter 70 Section 10A.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws,as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting the following new definition:—
4 “Local share of the foundation budget,” shall be the product of
5 seventy-five percent of the municipality’s foundation budget and the
6 municipality’s median income per capita percentage of the state-
7 wide average median income per capita over the last three years.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 70 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following
3 new section:—
4 Section 10A. Subject to appropriation, each municipality shall
5 have the option of receiving state aid as defined in Section 10 or the
6 difference of its foundation budget and its “local share of the foun-
7 dation budget” as defined in Section 2.