

# SENATE NO. 101

## **AN ACT** RELATIVE TO FUNDING FOR SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS

*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. Section 72 of chapter 44 of General Laws, as amended by section 55 of chapter 127  
2 of the acts of 1999 is hereby further amended by inserting after the following sentence:- “Any funds  
3 received by a local government entity pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be considered  
4 unrestricted revenue of the local government entity and may be spent in accordance with any  
5 general or special law governing the expenditure of the entity’s revenues.”, the following sentence:-  
6 “provided, however, that a city, town or regional school district shall deposit in a separate account  
7 for expenditure by the school committee no less than 75 percent of any such amount; provided,  
8 further, that a school committee may make expenditures from said separate account for the  
9 enhancement of school health services, including but not limited to school-based health centers and  
10 school nursing programs or any lawful health-educational purposes without further appropriation;  
11 provided further, that any expenditure from said account on items qualifying as net school  
12 spending shall supplement, and not substitute for, the net school spending requirement of the

13 district; and provided, further, that the receipt of such funds shall not affect the calculation of the  
14 minimum required local contribution and state school aid as defined in section 2 of chapter 70.

15 SECTION 2. Section 72 of chapter 44 of the General Laws as most recently appearing in the 2002  
16 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new subsection:-

17 Section 72(a) The division of medical assistance shall promulgate rules and regulations to improve  
18 the efficiency of the Massachusetts Municipal Medicaid program in order to maximize the benefits  
19 received by state and local communities. Said rules and regulations shall include but shall not be  
20 limited to the development of a fee-for-service rate structure and billing methodology, implement  
21 oversight procedures to minimize incidents of improper payments, develop in conjunction with the  
22 department of education a more effective process for obtaining parental authorization to ensure that  
23 every district is maximizing their federal reimbursements under the Massachusetts municipal  
24 medicaid program for all eligible special needs students, develop in conjunction with the  
25 department of education a Municipal Medicaid section on the department's website, and improve  
26 overall communications with school districts through the DOE.

27 (b) The division shall take steps to review federal financial participation parameters to ensure that  
28 the state program captures all reimbursement opportunities, shall provide updated program  
29 materials and manuals and improve overall communications with school district providers and shall  
30 implement improved data management procedures to facilitate program monitoring, oversight and  
31 review.