

ASSEMBLY, No. 2257

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman ROBERT D. CLIFTON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman WILLIAM W. SPEARMAN

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Benson

SYNOPSIS

Provides emergency State school aid to certain school districts located in historic communities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/7/2020)

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

43 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

48 This bill establishes a process for the allocation of emergency aid
49 to school districts that have a single school building that has a

1 significant historic legacy, and the reduction in State aid to that
2 school district may result in the closure of the school building and
3 consequently the loss of that legacy.

4 Under the bill's provisions, upon the submission of an
5 application, the Commissioner of Education will provide emergency
6 aid for the 2019-2020 through 2024-2025 school years to a school
7 district that meets the following criteria:

- 8 • The school district is located in a municipality listed on the
9 national and State registers of historic places;
- 10 • The school district is comprised of only one school building
11 that was originally built by the federal government and will
12 revert to the federal government if the school building ceases
13 to operate;
- 14 • The students enrolled in the school district demonstrate a
15 high level of academic achievement;
- 16 • The school district demonstrates that without the emergency
17 aid, the district is at risk of closing its school building, and
18 the closure of the building will have a negative impact on the
19 students, the residents of the community at large, and the
20 historic legacy of the community;
- 21 • The school district is subject to reductions in State aid under
22 P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.), and those reductions
23 have directly impacted the ability of the school district to
24 continue to operate the school building.

25 The commissioner will review the school district's application
26 and may ask for any additional supporting information and
27 documentation that he deems necessary. If the application and
28 information adequately demonstrates that the school district meets
29 the criteria, the commissioner will provide emergency aid in an
30 amount equal to the school district's reduction in State aid for that
31 budget year.

32 The provision of emergency aid under this bill addresses the fact
33 that some school districts face unique circumstances and that it is in
34 the best interests of the State to recognize and address those
35 circumstances.