

H.853 - As Passed the House

An act relating to setting the nonresidential property tax rate, the property dollar equivalent yield, and the income dollar equivalent yield for fiscal year 2017, and other education changes

Sec. 1. Yields for fiscal year 2017

- Sets property dollar equivalent yield at \$9701
- Sets income dollar equivalent yield at \$10,870

Sec. 2. Nonresidential property tax rate for fiscal year 2017

- Sets nonresidential property tax base rate at \$1.53

Sec. 3. Excess spending penalty for fiscal year 2020

- Reduces excess spending threshold from 121% of statewide average to 119% of statewide average beginning in fiscal year 2020.

Secs. 4-6a. Unfunded mandates

- Creates a process by which JFO and Administration estimate an “unfunded education mandate amount” for legislation passed year each.
- That amount is automatically added to the Governor’s budget recommend for the following fiscal year.
- The “unfunded education mandate amount” becomes part of the General Fund transfer.
- Requires JFO to include information related to unfunded mandates in education related fiscal notes, and to publish an annotated Education Fund Outlook each year.

Sec. 7. Transfer of debt in merging districts

- Allows merging districts to explore the transfer of existing school debt to the corresponding towns.

Sec. 8. Budget surplus and reserve amounts

- Requires Secretary of Education to collect data on budget surplus amounts, reserve fund amounts, and reserve fund uses.

Sec. 9. Study group on common level of appraisal

- Convenes a study group to examine the viability of moving merged districts to an aggregate common level of appraisal.

Sec. 9a. Report on the impact of H.846

- Requires JFO to issue a report on the various impacts of H.846, an act relating to making changes to the calculation of the statewide education property tax.

Sec. 9b. Report on the impact of H.656

- Requires JFO to issue a report on the various impacts of H.846, an act related to creating an education tax that is adjusted by income for all taxpayers.

Sec. 9c. Report on an analysis of weighting factors

- Requires the Agency of Education to report on how a study of pupil weighting factors could be conducted.