

Mike,

As per our phone conversation earlier today, here is the update you requested on what in the last legislative session ending January 14 was S2307/A3478. The bill, as has by now been well-documented, eliminates limits on state aid growth for school districts in which individuals age 65 and over make up more than a third of a given district's population.

The theory behind the bill is to recognize that additional aid is necessary for communities with large populations of seniors because those seniors have greater difficulty supporting a tax base because they are overwhelmingly on fixed incomes.

Senator Greenstein did reintroduce the bill as a priority in the new session which began the same day the old one expired, January 14. Also, Assemblymen Wayne DeAngelo and Dan Benson, Senator Greenstein's legislative district mates here in the 14th, introduced their Assembly version the same day. The Senate version of the bill is S272 and the Assembly version is A1500. Both bills were referred to the Education Committees of their respective houses. Neither is yet scheduled for hearings.

As I had discussed with you earlier, the Senate version last session was transferred out of Education and into the Budget and Appropriations Committee, where it was passed on June 13. The Senator was unable to corral a 21-vote majority for a floor vote, however.

On the Assembly side, it did not move from committee last time but of course there are hopes we will make more headway this time.

I'm not certain whether we will follow that same track on the Senate side this time around or what the schedule is for moving into hearings for the bills, but I will keep you posted on the process. I hope this is helpful as a status update.

Regards,

Jim