

SPONSOR STATEMENT – SB 13

SB 13, “An Act requiring a separate appropriation bill for funding public education; providing for an increase in the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education; establishing a date by which the bill funding public education must be transmitted to the governor; and providing for an effective date.”

This bill will let school districts know the amount of state aide they will be receiving for the succeeding school year by April 1st of each calendar year, and will set the base student allocation at \$4869.

By state statute, school districts are required to submit funding requests to their municipal governments by May 1st each year. In many instances, the legislature has not passed and the governor has not signed the operating budget until well after the May 1st. This situation makes it difficult for school districts to prepare an actual financial plan, putting an added burden on local government officials in developing their budgets. Over the years, funding uncertainties have also caused school districts to layoff educators only to attempt to hire them again once the final budget has been approved.

SB 13 requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill to the legislature for public elementary and secondary schools before the fourth day of each regular session. It also requires the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year. Additionally, the bill also increases the base student allocation to \$4869, a \$293 increase, providing significant relief to school districts throughout the state which are incurring enormous expenses due to rising fuel costs, teacher retirement system increases and more.

One of the most important things the Legislature can do is show its support for public education and our students; SB 13 is one way to do so. I urge you to join me in supporting this bill.