
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: PHONE NUMBERS FOR CALLS REGARDING HB 776
DATE 3/26/01
CC: FILE

The conference report submitted on HB 776 provides for the following:

- Divert EEF designated for textbooks and a portion EEF allocated for classroom supplies to the support of educational programs until July 1, 2002.
- Allow state GO bonds to be issued to provide funds for the payment of allocations of Adequate Education Program funds to school districts for capital expenditures which have not been pledged for debt.
- Delete "HB 400" provision of 50% of the unencumbered year-end cash balance being transferred into EEF; unencumbered year-end cash to remain in the State General Fund.

The Conference Report on SB 3055 provides for the restoration of FY 01 school district deficits and the Critical Teacher Shortage Act Scholarship Program. According to Judy Rhodes of MDE, districts will still face a \$14.4 million FY 01 shortfall. HB 776 allows them to use any remaining unobligated EEF textbook and classroom supply funds to offset these remaining shortfalls. Most schools won't be able to offset the shortfalls and could be faced with going to the local taxing authority to increase millage, i.e., a tax increase due to fiscal irresponsibility by the Legislature.

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