

HOUSE No. 4158

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 29, 2018

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act Making Appropriations to Provide Funding for Certain Activities and Projects Associated with the Commonwealth's Efforts to Assist the Residents of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.”

As you are aware, many families were welcomed to Massachusetts last fall following the disastrous hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This bill contains our recommendation that \$15 million be provided in supplemental local aid for school districts experiencing significant enrollment increases as a consequence of hurricanes Maria and Irma.

Sufficient revenues are estimated to be available to finance these appropriations. Because this appropriation addresses urgent matters, I urge you to enact this legislation promptly.

Respectfully submitted

Charles D. Baker,
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act making appropriations to provide funding for certain activities and projects associated with the Commonwealth's efforts to assist the residents of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are forthwith to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2018 and to make certain changes in law, each of which is immediately necessary to carry out those appropriations or to accomplish other important public purposes, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to
2 provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations, and to meet certain requirements
3 of law, the sums set forth in this section are hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless
4 specifically designated otherwise in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the
5 conditions specified in this section, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public
6 funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. These sums shall be in addition to any amounts
7 previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of these items. These sums shall be
8 made available until June 30, 2018.

9 EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR EDUCATION

10 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

11 7061-0011 For a reserve to provide extraordinary relief to school districts educating
12 students who are residents of Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands who have enrolled in their
13 schools, or in an educational entity to whom they pay tuition to educate their students, after
14 October 2, 2017 due to the impact of hurricanes Maria and Irma; provided, that financial support
15 shall be provided to said districts, on a full time equivalent basis, and in a manner consistent with
16 the aid calculations made under the chapter 70 school aid program; provided further, that funds
17 distributed from this item, shall not be considered prior year chapter 70 aid and shall not be used
18 in the calculation of the minimum required local contribution for fiscal year 2019; and provided
19 further, that the department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt equitable and
20 proportionate guidelines and application procedures for grants to be made pursuant to this
21 section within 60 days of enactment of this chapter \$15,000,000