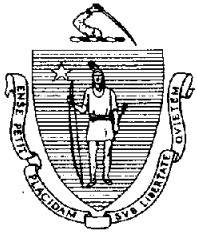


L/CBJ



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

BRADLEY H. JONES, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MINORITY LEADER

20th MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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ROOM 124
TEL (617) 722-2100
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July 1, 2003

Mr. Peter Hechenbleikner
Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867

Dear Mr. Hechenbleikner: *Peter*

Thank you for your continued interest and advocacy regarding the Reading Memorial High School (RMHS) building project and the status of its application for the state's School Building Assistance (SBA) waiting list for state funding.

I am very pleased to announce the successful inclusion in the final version of the fiscal 2004 state budget of language I sponsored ensuring that the RMHS project and the other 62 pending projects are placed on the list. I have enclosed the text of the relevant section of the budget for your perusal. The language was part of the Conference Committee report on the budget; with Governor Romney's decision not to veto the section, it now has the status and force of law effective as of July 1, 2003.

The wording of the law is such that there should be no confusion or ambiguity on the part of the Department of Education as to its interpretation. It is my expectation that the RMHS project will be added to the SBA waiting list as a direct result of this legislation. Please be assured that I will continue to keep a close eye on this issue should there be any question of failure by the Department to comply.

I know this will come as welcome news to you. If you should have any further questions or thoughts on this or any other matter, or if I may ever be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Minority Leader

encl.

8d1.

SECTION 668. "All school facilities' capital or major reconstruction projects, which have received final municipal approval by a favorable vote by the legislative body of any municipality, subject to its charter, on or before June 30, 2003, shall be placed on the priority waiting list for reimbursement pursuant to section 10 of chapter 70B of the General Laws at the rate for which it would have been eligible on January 31, 2003. The priority categories set forth in section 8 of said chapter 70B shall not be used to restrict any eligible project from placement on the priority list but may be used to rank new projects for placement on the priority list. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the board of education shall not accept any application for the school building assistance program established in said chapter 70B of the General Laws, until after July 1, 2007.

8d2.