

Chapter 6

(Senate Bill 848)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Maintenance of Effort – Waivers

FOR the purpose of authorizing a county governing body, for a certain purpose and under certain circumstances, to set a property tax rate that is higher than the rate authorized under the county's charter or to collect more property tax revenues than are authorized under the county's charter, notwithstanding any provision of the county charter that places certain limits on that county's property tax rate or revenues; requiring a county to appropriate to the local board of education certain revenues under certain circumstances; prohibiting a county from reducing certain funding to the local board of education under certain circumstances; establishing a certain penalty for a county that does not fund the local share of the foundation program or the maintenance of effort requirement; excluding the cost of debt service incurred for school construction projects from a certain calculation; requiring a county to apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver from the maintenance of effort requirement under certain circumstances; establishing a penalty for a county that fails to apply for a waiver and fails to fund the maintenance of effort requirement; establishing the following year's required maintenance of effort amount under certain circumstances; establishing the application procedure for a maintenance of effort waiver; requiring the State Board to grant a waiver request if the county has exceeded the maintenance of effort requirement by a certain amount and has at least a certain local effort; altering certain dates by which a county and the State Board must take certain actions; requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to provide make a preliminary assessment of a county's waiver request to application the State Board; requiring the State Board to hold a public hearing at a certain time; requiring the State Board to consider; establishing certain factors that the State Board shall consider when making a decision deciding whether to grant a certain waiver request; requiring the Department to consult with certain State agencies when making certain calculations; requiring the State Board to grant a waiver if a county has satisfied certain requirements; limiting the amount of a waiver by a certain amount; establishing the required maintenance of effort amount for the fiscal year following a waiver; defining certain terms; and generally relating to education funding under certain circumstances; limiting the amount of a waiver that the State Board may grant under certain circumstances; authorizing a county to request a rebasing waiver under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board to consider certain factors when deciding whether to grant a rebasing waiver; requiring the Comptroller to withhold from a county a certain amount under certain circumstances and distribute the amount to the county