

# More Money Is Appropriated For School Administration, Other School Laws Passed

The General Assembly of 1953 which adjourned on April 30 increased the total appropriations for public education including administration approximately \$14 million for 1953-54 over 1952-53 and approximately \$17 million for 1954-55 over 1952-53. The appropriations for the nine month's term for State administration include a ten per cent salary increase effective as of July 1, 1952, for all public school personnel including the State staff.

In addition to the "money bills," provision was made for a \$50 million bond issue to be voted on by the people to aid counties and cities in school building construction.

A new law with references to consolidation and an amendment to the law in regard to school entrance were passed. These and a number of other acts with reference to board appointments, bus operation, including the provision for the appointment of a commission to study the school laws, were the most important State-wide laws enacted by the General Assembly regarding the public schools. In addition to this State-wide legislation there were a number of laws passed relating to public education in specific counties and cities.

Approximately \$14 million more for 1953-54 and approximately \$15.5 million more for 1954-55 than for 1952-53 was appropriated for the support of the nine month's term.

The appropriation to the State Board of Education was increased slightly, enough for the 10 per cent salary increase and a little increase in operating costs. For vocational education, the increase over 1952-53 was approximately \$573,000 for the first year and \$718,000 for the second year of the biennium. For purchase of textbooks increases of \$931,000 and \$712,000 for the respective years were made. For the Vocational Textile Training School increases of \$17,000 and \$18,000 for each respective year were allowed.

Funds for the purchase of school buses are provided as a permanent fund. Since part of the appropriation for the past year remained unexpended the amounts provided for the ensuing years were less, the totals being \$717,591 for 1953-54 and \$1,977,500 for 1954-55 as compared with \$2,271,000 for 1952-53.

To take care of increases in salaries and for small increases in operation, the appropriation for administration of the State School Plant Construction, Improvement and Repair Fund was increased from \$51,279 to \$58,292 and \$59,272, respectively, for the ensuing two years.

For the Department of Public Instruction, in addition to funds for the 10 per cent salary increases, funds were made available for new positions, viz., a director of research and statistics, a teacher education coordinator, a statistician, an educational supervisor for libraries, and an educational administrator for athletics, and five stenographers and clerks. In addition,

by separate acts, provision was made by an appropriation of \$35,000 for six area music supervisors and a transfer of \$25,000 from the Highway Fund was authorized for the organization and administration of a program of driver training and safety education in the public schools.

Next to importance to the appropriations made for operating the public schools was the act providing for the issuance of \$50,000,000 in bonds for the construction and improvement of school plant facilities. This bond issue is subject to a vote of the people. The funds realized from the sale of the bonds, if voted on favorably, are to be distributed to each county of the State as follows:

- \$10,000,000—\$100,000 to each county
- \$15,000,000—based on average daily membership
- \$25,000,000—based on need as determined by the State Board of Education

The amount each county receives is subject to a deduction of one-eighth of one per cent for surveys and plans. Other State-wide acts passed by the 1953 General Assembly relating to the public schools were the following:

1. The omnibus bill appointing board members in the several counties, and the few separate local bills applying to certain counties.

2. An amendment to section 115-31.22 which provides that funds paid as premiums on insurance shall also be used "for insurance" of public school property.

3. Sections 115-221 and 223 were amended by the elimination of the four per cent rate of interest specified for loans from the State Literary Fund, and by authorizing the State Board to fix the rate. At a meeting held May 7 this rate was fixed at 3 per cent.

4. That part of section 115-353 stating that a superintendent "is a graduate of a four year standard college" was stricken out, and the effect of the law now is that a superintendent must hold a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. An amendment to this section also eliminates the "citizen of the State" requirement for becoming a superintendent. These amendments are not applicable to those superintendents elected prior to July 1, 1953.

5. Section 115-371 was amended by giving the State Board authority, in its discretion, to change the entrance age from October first.

6. Luncheon employees were included in the Workmen's Compensation Act by amendments to sections 115-370 and 381.

7. An amendment to section 115-376 provides that \$25.00 per month may be allowed by the State Board of Education in lieu of transportation instead of \$10.00 as originally permitted.

8. A new law concerning consolidation was enacted. This law provides that certain small high schools

which had been closed recently may be reopened under certain conditions. This law also provides for the operation of a high school with an average daily attendance of fewer than 60 but more than 45 pupils when local funds are provided for teachers necessary to provide a standard school.

8. Section 115-88 was amended to provide for the establishment of a school facility in an adjoining county or city administrative unit.

9. An amendment to section 115-86 provides for the sale of school property other than realty at public auction.

10. An act was passed to provide that basketball games by girl students in tournaments may be played outside of the county. A subsequent act limited this outside playing to one tournament during the school year and to approved tournaments.

11. A new law also provides that all school buses purchased hereafter shall be equipped with alternately flashing stop lights on the front and rear of such vehicles.

12. An amendment to section 115-376 provides "reasonable exceptions" in routing buses on State maintained highways to take care of pupils who live more than one and one-half miles from school.

13. A new section numbered 115-45.1 pertaining to the title of activity buses purchased by local or community funds was added.

14. Section 115-323 broadened or clarified the scope of responsibility of the State Board of Education in licensing institutions to confer degrees.

15. Chapter 966, a new act, validated the titles to marsh or swamp lands heretofore conveyed or granted by the State Board of Education.

16. Chapter 1267 enacted into law certain parts of Resolution 26 passed by the 1947 General Assembly and relating to the erection of a memorial to Sir Walter Raleigh. The use of donations collected for this purpose was set forth and authority was given to the State Superintendent to designate a day to be observed as "Sir Walter Raleigh Day."

17. Early in the session a resolution providing for the appointment of a Commission to study and report on education television as soon as possible was passed. In a subsequent act, Chapter 1204, the life of this Commission was continued with the instruction to report to the Governor prior to the convening of the next General Assembly.

18. Finally, provision was made by Resolution 42 for the appointment by the Governor of a Commission to study the school laws of the State and to submit recommendations as to their revision to the 1955 Session of the General Assembly.

In addition to this State-wide legislation a number of laws pertaining to public education in the specific county and city units were enacted. A list of these several acts has been pre-

pared and sent to all county and city superintendents.

He that places himself neither higher nor lower than he ought to do, ex-

ercises the truest humility. —Colton.

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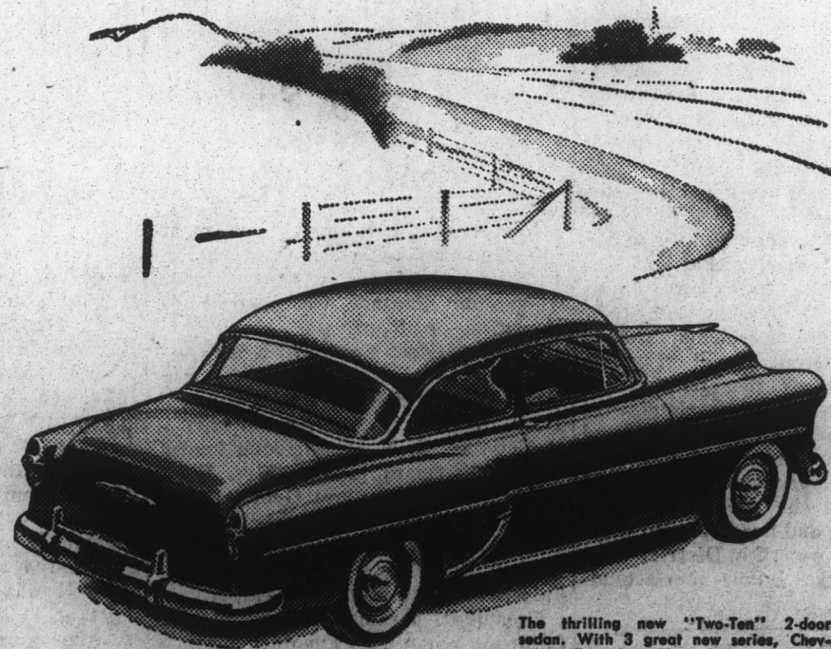
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