

(ii) The third member is to be chosen by the other two members within 10 days after the request.

(4) The State Board or the panel selected shall meet with the parties to aid in resolving the differences, and, if the matter is not resolved, shall make a written report and recommendation within 30 days after the request.

(5) A copy of the report shall be sent to representatives of the public school employer and the employee organization.

(6) All costs of the impasse proceedings, including mediation, shall be shared equally by the public school employer and the employee organization.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, the public school employer shall make the final determination as to matters which have been the subject of negotiation, but this final determination is subject to the other provisions of this article concerning the fiscal relationship between the public school employer and the county commissioners and county council.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 288

(Senate Bill 856)

AN ACT concerning

Adequate and Equitable Funding for Public Schools Act
Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing a county council in a charter county, under certain circumstances, to set a property tax rate that is higher than the rate authorized under the county's charter or collect more property tax revenues than are authorized under the county's charter; requiring a county that takes this action to appropriate to the local board of education all property tax revenues exceeding the amount that would have been authorized if the property tax or revenue limitation in the county charter had been applied; requiring the results of certain audits of county boards of education to report to certain committees of the General Assembly;~~ modifying a certain basic current expense formula for State education funding to create a new foundation program for State education funding; requiring that certain features of the new foundation program be phased in over a certain number of years; creating a compensatory education funding program under which the State provides certain grants to local boards of education under certain circumstances; creating a funding program for students with limited English proficiency under which the State provides certain grants to local boards of education under certain circumstances; creating a special education funding program under which the State provides certain