

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document


No. 929

H.P. 677

House of Representatives, February 11, 1997

An Act to Amend the School Construction Laws to Allow School Construction Projects That Expand Existing School Facilities beyond 8,000 Square Feet to Be Eligible for State School Construction Subsidies.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FOSTER of Gray.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CLUKEY of Houlton, GOOLEY of Farmington, JOY of Crystal, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MACK of Standish, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, STEDMAN of Hartland, WRIGHT of Berwick.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1993, c. 324, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Rules. The state board may adopt or amend rules relating to the approval of school construction projects.

The state board is encouraged to review school construction rules regarding costs per square foot, and the benefits of expanding existing facilities and may consider other measures for containing building costs and report on these efforts to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters during the ~~First~~ Second Regular Session of the ~~115th~~ 118th Legislature. On or before February 1, ~~1994~~ 1998 the state board shall adopt rules for approving ~~movable-equipment costs--for--school--construction~~ expansion projects to existing school facilities.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. ZZZ, §1, is amended to read:

5. Approval criteria. In approving school construction projects, the state board shall ensure that school administrative units have made efficient use of existing school facilities within the unit and have explored and when feasible developed agreements for sharing facilities with neighboring school administrative units. Beginning in 1998, the state board shall approve construction projects that expand existing school facilities to more than 8,000 square feet if these projects:

A. Support the efficient use of existing facilities; and

B. Promote the effective investment of public subsidies for school construction projects consistent with the rules of school construction approval established by the state board.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to direct the State Board of Education to revise the rules and approval criteria for the use of state school construction subsidies. Under this bill, the state board is charged with reviewing and adopting school construction approval rules that allow school construction projects that expand existing school facilities beyond 8,000 square feet to be eligible for state school construction subsidies.