

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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5/10/11  
R. G. S.

L.D. 1274

Date: **6-3-11** MAJORITY (Filing No. S- **240**)

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “**A**” to S.P. 395, L.D. 1274, Bill, “An Act To Restore Equity in Education Funding”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 504, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

**2. Students-to-staff ratios.** In calculating the salary and benefit costs pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall utilize the ~~following~~ student-to-staff ratios specified in paragraphs A and B and adjusted as provided in paragraph C.

A. For the elementary school level and the middle school level:

- (1) The student-to-education technician ratio is 100:1;
- (2) The student-to-guidance staff ratio is 350:1;
- (3) The student-to-librarian ratio is 800:1;
- (4) The student-to-media assistant ratio is 500:1;
- (5) The student-to-health staff ratio is 800:1;
- (6) The student-to-school administrative staff ratio is 305:1; and
- (7) The student-to-clerical staff ratio is 200:1.

B. For the high school level:

- (1) The student-to-education technician ratio is 250:1;
- (2) The student-to-guidance staff ratio is 250:1;
- (3) The student-to-librarian ratio is 800:1;
- (4) The student-to-media assistant ratio is 500:1;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

A. of B.

- 1 (5) The student-to-health staff ratio is 800:1;
- 2 (6) The student-to-school administrative staff ratio is 315:1; and
- 3 (7) The student-to-clerical staff ratio is 200:1.

4 C. Beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, and for each subsequent fiscal year, if the total  
 5 attending student population for a school administrative unit is less than 1,200  
 6 students, the commissioner shall reduce the ratios set forth in paragraphs A and B by  
 7 10%.

8 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15682**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. C, §6, is further  
 9 amended to read:

10 **§15682. Regional adjustment**

11 The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation  
 12 for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional  
 13 adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor  
 14 market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a  
 15 statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate  
 16 teacher salary and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit  
 17 costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.  
 18 Beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner  
 19 shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school  
 20 administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must  
 21 be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in  
 22 which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education  
 23 policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary costs as  
 24 calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not  
 25 teachers as calculated under section 15679.

26 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

27 **11. Minimum economically disadvantaged student adjustment.** Beginning in  
 28 fiscal year 2012-13, and for each subsequent fiscal year, each school administrative unit  
 29 may receive an adjustment for economically disadvantaged students determined as  
 30 follows.

31 A. A school administrative unit is eligible for the adjustment for economically  
 32 disadvantaged students under the following conditions:

- 33 (1) The school administrative unit receives an adjustment for the minimum state  
 34 allocation pursuant to subsection 1;
- 35 (2) The school administrative unit's percentage of economically disadvantaged  
 36 students as determined pursuant to section 15675, subsection 2 is greater than the  
 37 state average percentage of economically disadvantaged students; and
- 38 (3) The school administrative unit operates a school.

39 B. The amount of the adjustment for economically disadvantaged students is the  
 40 difference, but not less than zero, between the state share of the total allocation under

R. 018.

1 this chapter and the amount computed as the school administrative unit's total  
2 allocation for economically disadvantaged students, multiplied by the relevant  
3 percentage in subsection 1, paragraph B.

4 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
5 allocations are made.

6 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

7 **General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

8 Initiative: Provides additional funds for the State's share of funding the total cost of  
9 public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

10	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
11	All Other	\$0	\$2,349,732
12			
13	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,349,732</b>
14			

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education  
17 and Cultural Affairs. The amendment removes the provisions in the bill that propose to  
18 change the following components of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act:

19 1. The definition of "property fiscal capacity" upon which a local school  
20 administrative unit's fiscal capacity is based;

21 2. The removal of the reduction of federal Title I funds from the calculation of  
22 salaries and benefits costs for teachers and other school-level staff who are not teachers  
23 from the EPS per-pupil rate calculated by the Commissioner of Education for each school  
24 administrative unit; and

25 3. The removal of the benefits costs for teachers and other school-level staff from the  
26 calculation of salary costs included in the regional adjustment in the total operating  
27 allocation for school administrative units based on the regional differences in teacher  
28 salary costs for the labor market areas in which school administrative units are located.

29 The amendment also adds an adjustment for a school administrative unit that is a  
30 minimum subsidy receiver if the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in  
31 the school administrative unit is greater than the state average percentage of economically  
32 disadvantaged students and the school administrative unit operates a school.

33 This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

34 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

35 (See attached)



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1274

LR 29(02)

## An Act To Restore Equity in Education Funding

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" S-240

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	Projections FY 2013-14	Projections FY 2014-15
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$2,349,732	\$2,390,147	\$2,431,258
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$2,349,732	\$2,390,147	\$2,431,258

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

In the aggregate, this legislation will increase the total cost of K-12 public education by \$4,272,240 in fiscal 2012-13. This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$2,349,732 in fiscal year 2012-13 to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the Department of Education to fund the state's share.

Of that amount, applying a 10% reduction to the students-to-staff ratios for a school administrative unit (SAU) with a total attending student population of less than 1,200 beginning in fiscal year 2012-13 will increase the total state and local cost of K-12 public education by \$3,816,806 in fiscal year 2012-13 with the cost to fund the state's share of this requirement estimated to be \$2,099,243.

Additionally, excluding benefit costs for teachers and other school-levels staff from the calculation of salary costs in the determination of the regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for school administrative units will increase the total state and local cost of K-12 public education by \$455,434 in fiscal year 2012-13 with the state's share of this requirement estimated to be \$250,489.

Finally, this legislation provides an adjustment for certain school administrative units that are minimum subsidy receivers if the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in the SAU is greater than the state average. Although this provision will not increase the total state and local cost of K-12 public education beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, or the State's share of that cost, it will result in a redistribution of approximately \$2,046,553 in state subsidy with some SAU's receiving more subsidy than would have been received had this provision not been in place and some SAU's receiving less.

	Fiscal Year 2011-12	Fiscal Year 2012-13
Increase to total cost of K-12 Education <sup>1</sup>	\$ -	\$ 4,272,240
Transition %	0%	100%
Total cost adjusted for transition %	\$ -	\$ 4,272,240
State share (%)	0.00%	55.00%
State share (\$)	\$ -	\$ 2,349,732
Local share (\$)	\$ -	\$ 1,922,508

<sup>1</sup> Based on fiscal year 2011-12 federal funding anticipated to be received by school administrative units, increased by Real Personal Income growth of 1.72% per year per Title 20-A, §15671.