

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 236

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H.P. 199

House of Representatives, January 22, 2019

**An Act Regarding the Use of Unanticipated State Aid for  
Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative STEARNS of Guilford.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft,  
LYFORD of Eddington, SAMPSON of Alfred.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1485, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 463, §1, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **5. Additional state subsidy.** The warrant presented to the legislative body of the  
5 regional school unit at a regional school unit budget meeting ~~may~~ must include an article  
6 or articles providing that, in the event that the regional school unit receives more state  
7 education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, the regional school unit board  
8 is authorized to use all or part of the additional subsidy to:

9 A. Increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by  
10 the regional school unit board. If that article is approved by the voters at the budget  
11 meeting, the regional school unit board may increase expenditures for school  
12 purposes in cost center categories approved by the regional school unit board as  
13 provided in the article, without holding a special budget meeting and budget  
14 validation referendum;

15 B. Increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund. If that article is approved by  
16 the voters at the budget meeting, the regional school unit board may increase the  
17 allocation of finances for a reserve fund approved by the regional school unit board  
18 as provided in the article, without holding a special budget meeting and budget  
19 validation referendum; or

20 C. Decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in section 15671-A,  
21 subsection 1, paragraph B, for local property taxpayers for funding public education.  
22 If that article is approved by the voters at the budget meeting, the regional school unit  
23 board may decrease the local cost share expectation for local property taxpayers  
24 approved by the regional school unit board as provided in the article, without holding  
25 a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum. If as a result of the  
26 additional subsidy a school administrative unit board does not raise 100% of the  
27 required local contribution pursuant to section 15690, section 1, the commissioner  
28 shall waive the required proration of the state share pursuant to section 15690,  
29 subsection 1, paragraph C.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires the warrant presented to the legislative body of the regional school  
32 unit to include an article describing how unanticipated school aid will be used. In cases  
33 where the adjustment prevents the regional school unit board from raising 100% of the  
34 required local share, the Commissioner of Education must waive the required proration of  
35 the state share.