

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 318

Date: 6/10/25

(Filing No. H-610)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 218, L.D. 318, "An Act Regarding School Funding and General Purpose Aid for Local Schools"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the Department of Education to Recommend Changes to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute to review certain essential programs and services components; report. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall:

1. No later than October 1, 2025, identify updated cost model parameters for the Department of Education to use in simulating projected impacts on school funding. Parameters must include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Transitional recommendations for moderating the special education component's expenditure-based adjustment;

B. A minimum index value for the regional adjustment;

C. A recommendation for calculating a regional index based on a valid and reliable cost-of-living measure;

D. An updated per-pupil amount to more adequately fund instructional staff support;

E. A variable student weight for determining economic disadvantage, with higher-poverty units receiving a progressively higher weight;

F. Alternative parameters and implementation guidelines for the transportation model; and

G. One or more options for incorporating a student economic disadvantage factor into the method for determining the amount of state subsidy provided to each municipality,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 including, but not limited to, adjusting the local required share of the essential programs
2 and services cost estimate based on the proportion of economically disadvantaged
3 resident students;

4 2. No later than October 1, 2025, identify additional information needed from school
5 administrative units, to be collected by the Department of Education in fall 2025, to
6 examine the per-pupil costs of certain high-cost in-district special education programs and
7 services; and

8 3. Solicit stakeholder input on the results of simulations generated by the Department
9 of Education pursuant to section 2, subsection 2 and submit a report to the Joint Standing
10 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs summarizing the recommended parameters
11 and results of stakeholder input no later than January 15, 2026.

12 **Sec. 2. Department of Education to collect data and conduct simulations**
13 **of updated parameters for certain essential programs and services**
14 **components; report. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall:

15 1. Collect data identified by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute pursuant
16 to section 1, subsection 2;

17 2. Simulate the impacts that the parameters proposed by the Maine Education Policy
18 Research Institute pursuant to section 1 would have had on fiscal year 2026 school funding
19 allocations, including the impact of all parameters combined, on the following:

20 A. Total statewide cost of education;

21 B. Statewide mill rate expectation; and

22 C. Local and state shares and state share percentage of the essential programs and
23 services estimated cost of education in each school administrative unit;

24 3. Provide the results of the simulations pursuant to subsection 2 to the Maine
25 Education Policy Research Institute no later than October 15, 2025; and

26 4. Submit a report summarizing the results of the simulations pursuant to subsection
27 2, as well as any other simulations the Commissioner of Education may recommend, to the
28 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15,
29 2026. The joint standing committee may submit legislation related to the report to the
30 Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

31 The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall conduct the work under section 1
32 within existing contracted resources. The Department of Education shall conduct the work
33 under this section within existing resources.'

34 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
35 number to read consecutively.

36 SUMMARY

37 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. The
38 amendment directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to specify certain
39 elements of the essential programs and services funding formula to be simulated with new
40 parameters. The Department of Education is required to collect additional data from school
41 administrative units and conduct simulations of the proposed parameters. The institute is

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1 required to solicit feedback from stakeholders on the recommended potential adjustments
2 to the funding formula in light of the forecasts prepared by the department. The amendment
3 directs the department to conduct the reviews within existing resources and the institute to
4 conduct the work within existing contracted resources. The institute and department are
5 required to submit reports with their findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing
6 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2026.

7 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
8 (See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 318

LR 1718(02)

An Act Regarding School Funding and General Purpose Aid for Local Schools

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-610)

Fiscal Note

Review to be completed within budgeted resources

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation requires the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to identify updated cost model parameters to be used by the Department of Education in simulating projected impacts on school funding and to stakeholder input on the results of the simulations. Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 20-A, section 10 established the Education Research Institute to collect and analyze education information and perform targeted education research for the Legislature. The Legislature contracts with the University of Maine System to maintain the institute and ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 per year are included in the Learning Systems Team program account within the Department of Education to support the work of the institute. This fiscal note assumes that the work required in this bill to be performed by MEPRI will be paid for with the funding included in the Learning Systems Team budget for fiscal year 2025-26 and enacted in Public Law 2025, chapter 2 and that the cost of the review will not exceed the \$250,000 already appropriated for fiscal year 2025-26. Given these assumptions, no General Fund appropriations for the cost to MEPRI to conduct the required review are included in this bill.

Additional costs to the Department of Education to conduct the required simulations can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.