

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 858

H.P. 544

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

**An Act to Ensure Behavioral and Mental Health Services Are
Available to Students by Providing Grants to Schools That Contract
for Those Services**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 10, headnote** is amended to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 10**

4 **YOUTH BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH FIRST-AID TRAINING**

5 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6672** is enacted to read:

6 **§6672. Behavioral and mental health grant program**

7 **1. Grant program.** The department shall establish and administer a grant program to
8 provide grants to school administrative units that contract for behavioral and mental health
9 services provided by licensed behavioral and mental health service providers.

10 **2. Limitation on use of funds.** Funds provided under the grant program under this
11 section may be used only for behavioral and mental health services that are not otherwise
12 covered or reimbursable through the MaineCare program. Funds must be used in a manner
13 that ensures that contracted behavioral and mental health service providers do not supplant
14 qualified and available school administrative unit behavioral and mental health staff.

15 **3. Grant program funding based on population.** In administering the grant program
16 under this section, the department shall provide grant funds according to the population of
17 a school administrative unit as follows:

18 A. Two hundred fifty or fewer students, \$3,000;

19 B. Two hundred fifty-one students to 500 students, \$6,000; and

20 C. More than 500 students, \$9,000.

21 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
22 allocations are made.

23 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

24 **School and Student Supports Z270**

25 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for grants to school administrative units for contracted
26 behavioral and mental health services for students. The grants are based on the population
27 of each school administrative unit.

28 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
29 All Other	\$1,353,000	\$1,353,000
30		
31 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,353,000</u>	<u>\$1,353,000</u>

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill establishes a grant program within the Department of Education to provide
34 grants to school administrative units that contract for behavioral and mental health services
35 provided by licensed behavioral and mental health service providers. The bill limits the use
36 of funds provided through the grant program to behavioral and mental health services that
37 are not otherwise covered or reimbursable through the MaineCare program and provides

1 that funds must be used in a manner that does not supplant qualified and available school
2 administrative unit behavioral and mental health staff. The bill also provides that the
3 amounts of the grants must be based on a school administrative unit's population and
4 provides ongoing funding for the grants starting in fiscal year 2025-26.