

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1203

S.P. 492

In Senate, March 20, 2025

An Act to Provide Grants to Schools That Contract for Behavioral and Mental Health Services

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington,
RAFFERTY of York, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton,
DODGE of Belfast, MITCHELL of Cumberland.

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 clinicians needed.** In administering the grant
16 program under this section, the department shall provide grant funds to a school
17 administrative unit based on the number of clinicians needed by the school administrative
18 unit and in the amount of:

19 A. Prior to July 1, 2027, \$20,000 per clinician; and

20 B. Beginning July 1, 2027, \$25,000 per clinician.

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 one-time funds for grants to school administrative units for contracted
26 behavioral and mental health services for students. The grants are based on how many
27 clinicians the school administrative unit needs at a cost of \$20,000 per clinician.

| 28 GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 29 All Other | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| 30 | | |
| 31 GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$3,000,000</u> | <u>\$3,000,000</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 need for clinicians
4 and in the amount of \$20,000 per clinician prior to July 1, 2027 and \$25,000 per clinician
5 beginning July 1, 2027. The bill provides funding for the grants for fiscal years 2025-26
6 and 2026-27.