

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1327

H.P. 862

House of Representatives, March 27, 2025

**An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in
Maine by Compensating Student Teaching**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SARGENT of York.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRENNAN of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland,
DODGE of Belfast, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MURPHY of Scarborough, ROEDER of
Bangor, WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13803** is enacted to read:

3 **§13803. Student teaching; compensation**

4 **1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,
5 the following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Cooperating teacher" means a teacher assigned to supervise, oversee or mentor a
7 student teacher.

8 B. "Educator preparation program" has the same meaning as in section 13001-A,
9 subsection 9.

10 C. "Student teacher" means a student enrolled in an educator preparation program at a
11 postsecondary educational institution in the State who is gaining classroom experience
12 with direct student engagement, including but not limited to tutoring, planning and
13 implementing lesson plans and otherwise directly interacting with students on an
14 individual basis or in a group setting under the supervision of a cooperating teacher.
15 "Student teacher" does not include a student enrolled in an educator preparation
16 program at a postsecondary educational institution in the State who is completing
17 activities that are composed solely of observing classrooms or students.

18 **2. Compensation.** A postsecondary educational institution that operates an educator
19 preparation program in the State shall compensate participants in accordance with this
20 subsection.

21 A. A student teacher must be compensated with a stipend of a minimum of \$500 per
22 week for the duration of the student teaching assignment and must be reimbursed for
23 travel or mileage to and from their assigned school.

24 B. A cooperating teacher must be compensated with a stipend of a minimum of \$500
25 per month for each month spent supervising, overseeing or mentoring a student teacher.

26 **3. Substitute teaching.** If a student teacher or cooperating teacher serves as a
27 substitute teacher for a partial or full school day, the school administrative unit shall
28 compensate the student teacher or cooperating teacher with the per diem substitute teacher
29 rate for that day in addition to the stipends described in subsection 2.

30 **4. Repayment.** If a student teacher that receives a stipend described in subsection 2,
31 paragraph A becomes employed as a teacher at a private school or a school outside of the
32 State upon graduation, the student teacher shall reimburse the State for the total amount the
33 student teacher received as a student teaching stipend.

34 **5. Funding.** The State shall appropriate, on an annual basis, from the General Fund
35 sufficient funding to the University of Maine System for the compensation described in
36 subsection 2. The University of Maine System shall disburse funds directly to student
37 teachers and cooperating teachers in accordance with subsection 2.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill requires a postsecondary educational institution in the State to provide
40 stipends to student teachers and the teachers who supervise them, referred to in the bill as
41 cooperating teachers, in addition to mileage or travel reimbursement for student teachers.

1 The bill also requires a school administrative unit to compensate a student teacher or
2 cooperating teacher who serves as a substitute teacher for a partial or full school day in
3 addition to the stipend. If a student teacher becomes employed as a teacher at a private
4 school or at a school outside of the State upon graduation, the student teacher is responsible
5 for reimbursing the State the total amount the student teacher received as a stipend. The
6 bill provides that the State must provide funding to the University of Maine System for the
7 cost of student teacher and cooperating teacher stipends.