

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1398

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H.P. 920

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

### **An Act Regarding Behavioral Health Support for Students in Public Schools**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: 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 §15672, sub-§1-E** is enacted to read:

3               **1-E. Clinical mental health provider.** "Clinical mental health provider" means a  
4       licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed alcohol  
5       and drug counselor or licensed pastoral counselor.

6               **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15672, sub-§27-A** is enacted to read:

7               **27-A. School counselor.** "School counselor" has the same meaning as in section 4008,  
8       subsection 1, paragraph B.

9               **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C,  
10       §33, is further amended to read:

11              A. For the elementary school level and the middle school level:

12                   (1) Beginning July 1, 2017, the student-to-education technician ratio is 114:1 for  
13                   the elementary school level and 312:1 for the middle school level;

14                   (2) The student-to-guidance staff ratio is 350:1;

15                   (3) The student-to-librarian ratio is 800:1;

16                   (4) The student-to-media assistant ratio is 500:1;

17                   (5) The student-to-health staff ratio is 800:1;

18                   (6) The student-to-school administrative staff ratio is 305:1; ~~and~~

19                   (7) The student-to-clerical staff ratio is 200:1;

20                   (8) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the student-to-clinical mental health  
21                   provider ratio is 350:1 and beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, the  
22                   student-to-clinical mental health provider ratio is 250:1; and

23                   (9) Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, the student-to-school counselor ratio  
24                   is 250:1.

25               **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C,  
26       §33, is further amended to read:

27              B. For the high school level:

28                   (1) Beginning July 1, 2017, the student-to-education technician ratio is 316:1;

29                   (2) The student-to-guidance staff ratio is 250:1;

30                   (3) The student-to-librarian ratio is 800:1;

31                   (4) The student-to-media assistant ratio is 500:1;

32                   (5) The student-to-health staff ratio is 800:1;

33                   (6) The student-to-school administrative staff ratio is 315:1; ~~and~~

34                   (7) The student-to-clerical staff ratio is 200:1;

35                   (8) Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, the student-to-clinical mental health  
36                   provider ratio is 350:1 and beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, the  
37                   student-to-clinical mental health provider ratio is 250:1; and

(9) Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, the student-to-school counselor ratio is 250:1.

## SUMMARY

This bill sets student-to-clinical mental health provider and student-to-school counselor ratios for the purpose of the calculation of salary and benefit costs in the essential programs and services school funding formula.