

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 3, 1979 to June 15, 1979

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Office a capability for efficient operation, flexibility in response to opportunities, sound decision making and the provision of quality services at economical rates.

Contracts awarded pursuant to this section shall be for the general promotion of tourism on a statewide basis and the promotion of tourism facilities and events at inland or uncrowded coastal locations, convention facilities in both coastal and inland locations, cultural facilities and off-season tourism.

All contracts may be awarded only if the contractor provides a dollar amount of matching funds. The State shall expend \$2 for every \$1 raised by the contractor up to such limits as the State Development Office may by contract prescribe.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
STATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE		
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
Effective September 14, 1979		

CHAPTER 568

H. P. 1433 — L. D. 1636

AN ACT to Amend the School Finance Law.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the changes in the school finance law contained in this legislation will benefit all of Maine's school children; and

Whereas, these changes must be in effect on July 1, 1979; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 4742, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Contribution from General Fund. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide at least 50% of the cost of the basic education allocation from General Fund revenue sources or a percentage no less than that provided in the year prior to the year of allocation, whichever is greater.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 4744, sub-§ 1, ¶¶ N and O, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8, are amended to read:

N. Local and state funds raised under section 4751, subsection 3; and

O. Local funds raised under section 4752; and

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 4744, sub-§ 1, ¶ P, is enacted to read:

P. Cost of state expenditures for teachers retirement benefits.

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA § 4749, sub-§ 3, ¶ C, first sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 690, § 14-B, is further amended to read:

C. The amount subtracted under paragraph B may not exceed 90% of the unit's entitlement for the year prior to the year of allocation or the base year, whichever is less.

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA § 4751, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Local leeway.

A. The legislative body of an administrative unit may, in addition to the unit's state-local allocation under sections 4748 and 4749, authorize an additional expenditure for either elementary or secondary pupils, or both, not to exceed a local appropriation for each municipality of 1.3 mills on the state valuation in effect on July 1st or \$125 per pupil, whichever is less, for the 1979-80 year of distribution. No unit shall participate in local leeway unless it has raised the minimum amount of its local allocation, as computed by the commissioner under subsection 1, paragraph A or as provided under subsection 1, paragraph D.

B. Any unit may appropriate funds under this subsection no later than 90 days following the final adoption of the school budget. Any unit may file a request for a waiver of this requirement with the State Board of Education. If any unit files a request and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the State Board of Education that unusual circumstances require additional appropriations under this subsection in order to avoid serious educational hardship in the unit, the State Board of Education may grant the unit a waiver and authorize these additional appropriations.

C. The local appropriations shall be divided equally over a 12-month period.

D. The funds appropriated under this subsection shall be called "local leeway."

(1) The purpose of these appropriations is to provide that all administrative units may raise and appropriate at least the amount per pupil established at the computed mill rate for that year under this subsection to supplement the adjusted allocations when necessary in the judgment of the local administrative units.

(2) The amount appropriated by the Legislature under section 4747, subsection 6 shall be the maximum state obligation under this subsection.

E. If the authorization for additional funds by an administrative unit under this subsection exceeds the maximum levy for any municipality within the administrative unit, the commissioner shall add to the allocation of the unit for the unit's fiscal year a sum which equals the excess over the maximum levy of any municipality within the unit.

F. If the additional school levy authorized under this subsection fails to produce the amount per pupil established at the computed mill rate for that year under this subsection, the commissioner shall add to the allocation of the unit for the unit's fiscal year a sum which, when combined with the local levy under this section, shall equal the amount per pupil established at the computed mill rate for that year under this subsection. This sum shall be paid annually to the unit no later than December 31st for the previous 12-month period.

G. If the administrative unit raises less than the maximum allowed under this subsection, the levy on any municipality within the administrative unit shall be in the same proportion as the municipality's share is to the total when the maximum amount allowed is raised.

H. If the administrative unit raises less than the maximum allowed under this subsection, the State shall pay its share in the same proportion to the maximum state share that the amount raised locally is to the maximum local share.

I. An article in substantially the following form is to be used when any municipality, School Administrative District or community school district is considering the appropriation of additional local funds under this subsection:
Article : To see what sum the municipality or district shall appropriate from local leeway for school purposes (recommended total \$, local share \$, state share \$), and to see if the municipality or district shall raise the local share of \$

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect July 1, 1979.