

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2025

CHAPTER 84
H.P. 218 - L.D. 318

**Resolve, Directing the Maine
Education Policy Research
Institute and the Department
of Education to Recommend
Changes to the Essential
Programs and Services
Funding Formula**

Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute to review certain essential programs and services components; report. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall:

1. No later than October 1, 2025, identify updated cost model parameters for the Department of Education to use in simulating projected impacts on school funding. Parameters must include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Transitional recommendations for moderating the special education component's expenditure-based adjustment;
- B. A minimum index value for the regional adjustment;
- C. A recommendation for calculating a regional index based on a valid and reliable cost-of-living measure;
- D. An updated per-pupil amount to more adequately fund instructional staff support;
- E. A variable student weight for determining economic disadvantage, with higher-poverty units receiving a progressively higher weight;
- F. Alternative parameters and implementation guidelines for the transportation model; and
- G. One or more options for incorporating a student economic disadvantage factor into the method for determining the amount of state subsidy provided to each municipality, including, but not limited to, adjusting the local required share of the essential programs and services cost estimate based on the proportion of economically disadvantaged resident students;

2. No later than October 1, 2025, identify additional information needed from school administrative units, to be collected by the Department of Education in fall 2025, to examine the per-pupil costs of certain high-cost in-district special education programs and services; and

3. Solicit stakeholder input on the results of simulations generated by the Department of Education pursuant to section 2, subsection 2 and submit a report to

the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs summarizing the recommended parameters and results of stakeholder input no later than January 15, 2026.

Sec. 2. Department of Education to collect data and conduct simulations of updated parameters for certain essential programs and services components; report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall:

1. Collect data identified by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute pursuant to section 1, subsection 2;

2. Simulate the impacts that the parameters proposed by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute pursuant to section 1 would have had on fiscal year 2026 school funding allocations, including the impact of all parameters combined, on the following:

- A. Total statewide cost of education;
- B. Statewide mill rate expectation; and
- C. Local and state shares and state share percentage of the essential programs and services estimated cost of education in each school administrative unit;

3. Provide the results of the simulations pursuant to subsection 2 to the Maine Education Policy Research Institute no later than October 15, 2025; and

4. Submit a report summarizing the results of the simulations pursuant to subsection 2, as well as any other simulations the Commissioner of Education may recommend, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2026. The joint standing committee may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall conduct the work under section 1 within existing contracted resources. The Department of Education shall conduct the work under this section within existing resources.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 85
H.P. 821 - L.D. 1246

**Resolve, Directing the
Department of Economic and
Community Development to
Convene a Working Group to
Review the Process of Setting
Impact Fees**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until