

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 19, 1964

Honorable David J. Kennedy  
Milbridge  
Maine

Re: School Teacher Contracts

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

We acknowledge receipt of your oral request for a legal opinion submitted to Deputy Attorney General George C. West on June 17, 1964. Your request states as fact that a local superintending school committee has stated that it need not pay the minimum salaries set forth in P.L. 1963, c. 395, upon teachers' contracts executed prior to July 1, 1964. Your request further states that it is your position that after July 1, 1964, school teachers must be paid not less than the minimum salaries set forth in chapter 395. You base your request for a legal opinion upon the fact that should the local school committee be in error, a certain amount of State subsidy could be withheld from the Town.

It is not necessary that we submit a formal opinion to you. On March 9, 1954, this Office directed a legal opinion to the Department of Education concerning the minimum salary law. This opinion contains language which supports your position. We attach hereto a photostatic copy of the opinion.

After discussion, we reassert the principles expressed in Mr. Frost's opinion.

A reading of Chapter 395 of the Public Laws of 1963 indicates that the Legislature did not intend that administrative units be required to increase teacher's salaries more than \$300 in any one school year.

6/18/64 ✓

". . .

" Notwithstanding other provisions of this section no town shall be required to increase the salary of any teacher more than \$300 in any one school year. . . ."

Thus, the dollar difference between the schedule of salaries existing on this date and the schedule of salaries taking effect July 1, 1964, will be met by increases in individual contracts, but only to the extent of \$300 yearly.

We deem it a pleasure to correspond with you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John W. Benoit  
Assistant Attorney General

JWB/eh  
Enc.