

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 710

S. P. 235

In Senate, February 11, 1969

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JERROLD B. SPEERS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Kellam of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to the Payment of Subsidy for the New Programs of Special Education for Handicapped Children.

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

R. S., T. 20, § 3722, amended. Section 3722 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a school administrative unit shall initiate new programs of special education for handicapped children in the public school system, the pupils enrolled in such programs shall, for the purposes of computing subsidies allotted such unit for special education, be counted as if they had been enrolled in special education programs in the schools of the administrative unit for an equivalent period in the applicable subsidy years.

Additional subsidies resulting from the initiation of new programs, only, of special education for the handicapped shall be paid to the unit in December next following the completion of the school year in which the special education programs were initiated in the public school system of the unit.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Special education subsidies are payable in December as a part of foundation program aid. Foundation aid, however, is only paid on programs which have been in operation for the preceding 2 years. Consequently, school officials

are reluctant to initiate new classes for handicapped children. Legislation is needed which will permit pupils to be counted as though they had been enrolled in special education classes for an equivalent period in the applicable subsidy years. This proposal is similar to a statute enacted by 103rd Legislature which permits counting pupils who have been previously enrolled in a private school which has closed.

Funds for payment of new programs as well as on-going programs are included in the foundation budget recommendations for the 1969-1971 biennium.