

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 305

H. P. 223

House of Representatives, January 21, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Carey of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Cost of School Construction for State Aid.

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

R. S., T. 20, § 3457, amended. Section 3457 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 2 of chapter 475 of the public laws of 1965 and as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

The square foot cost level of state construction aid shall be determined on the basis of average construction costs within the State upon which compact rectangular structures can be built and funds available for state aid construction. Design fees, furnishings, landscaping, walks and driveways, and site acquisition costs shall be excluded from the square foot construction cost.

Except as otherwise provided, the amount of the final allocation of state funds in the construction of an approved project shall be derived by applying the percentage of state aid determined in accordance with this section to the total cost of construction eligible for state matching funds up to the square foot cost level prevailing on the date of the bid opening for said project. Any cost in excess thereof shall be financed entirely by the school unit, except that when the need therefor has been substantiated to the satisfaction of the State Board of Education, the school building committee and the citizens of that school unit, consideration may be given to extraordinary geographic isolation, peculiar site conditions or other extraordinary conditions.

The square foot cost eligible for state matching purposes as of the effective date of this Act shall be \$16 per square foot or so much thereof as may be required on the basis of bids received. The square foot level set forth above shall be adjusted upward to correspond with increases in construction costs

as measured semiannually by the Dodge Building Cost Index, such adjusted cost level to be effective at the beginning of the succeeding semiannual period.

State construction aid shall not be granted for swimming pools, skating rinks or observatories.

All rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education, relating to school construction shall govern the approval of an application for state aid, that in the interest of economy, safety and health these regulations do not exceed the standards set forth by the National Building Code, the State Insurance Department and the State Department of Health and Welfare.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill attempts to set cost standards for the construction of school facilities. It limits such cost so that the spiraling cost state aid for school construction may be abated.