

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1911

H. P. 1468

House of Representatives, January 24, 1972

Committee on Education suggested.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Millett of Dixmont.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-TWO

AN ACT to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Education Laws.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 521, amended. Section 521 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows :

§ 521. Establishment ; management and authority

Adjoining towns, upon the written recommendation of the school committees of said towns, may by concurrent action maintain union schools for the benefit of parts of said towns or may establish such schools, and shall contribute to their support each in proportion to the number of scholars in each of said towns attending such school. Said schools shall be under the management of the school committee of the town in which their schoolhouses are located in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 20, § 522, amended. Section 522 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended to read as follows :

§ 522. Union schools ; apportionment

Amounts due from the State on account of union elementary schools shall be paid to the town in which said school is located the pupils reside and the amounts to be contributed by each town for the maintenance of such school shall be determined in accordance with the terms of the agreement. by the school committees of the said towns. Amounts apportioned on account of union high schools shall be paid to the towns maintaining said schools in proportion to the aggregate attendance of pupils resident of each of said towns

Whenever a union school is desired, the towns shall apply to the commissioner who shall prepare an agreement setting out the terms and conditions under which a union school may operate. Before a union school can operate, each town must approve the agreement by an affirmative vote acting under an appropriate article at a regular or special town meeting or city election.

A union school shall be eligible for school construction aid on any project constructed as a result of the union school agreement. The aid shall be computed in the same manner as for a community school district as set forth in sections 3457 to 3460.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 20, § 2922, amended. Section 2922 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 452 of the public laws of 1967, is amended to read as follows :

§ 2922. Members of Legislature, selection and tenure

The 2 members of the Legislature on the education commission of the states shall be ~~elected~~ appointed by ~~his respective House~~ the presiding officer of the respective House and shall serve on the commission during such time each is a member of his respective House ~~but not more than 6 years from the date of his election.~~

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 20, § 3457, amended. The 2nd paragraph of 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 after the 2nd sentence the following new sentences :

Whenever a unit gives a 2-year notice to other units that it will discontinue the acceptance of tuition students, the unit shall file a copy of the notice with the commissioner. If the school committee of a unit refuses to accept tuition students without having given a proper 2-year notice, the commissioner is authorized to withhold school construction aid until the unit complies with the statute up to a maximum of 2 years' construction aid for that unit.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 20, § 3457, amended. The 8th paragraph of section 3457 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 2 of chapter 475 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows :

The term "major alteration" as used in this section shall mean the cost of acquiring new equipment, the cost of converting an existing public school building to a new condition of completeness or efficiency ~~from a worn, damaged or deteriorated condition~~ whenever the plans for such an alteration have been approved in accordance with section 3623. The State Board of Education shall have full authority to approve or disapprove the plans for a "major alteration" of a school building and equipping the same. Without state board approval, the administrative unit may not claim state aid on the alteration project. All expenditures made for major alterations must meet the definition of "capital outlay" as expressed in the latest Financial Handbook published by the United States Office of Education.

Sec. 6. R. S., T. 20, § 3731, amended. The 2nd paragraph of section 3731 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 2 of chapter 496 of

the public laws of 1969 and as amended by section 37-B of chapter 530 of the public laws of 1971, is further amended by inserting after the 2nd sentence the following new sentence:

If the aid of the unit is not greater than the amount to be withheld, the unit shall pay the entire share of the superintendent's costs from local funds, and any state aid that is payable to the unit shall be paid directly to the unit.

Sec. 7. R. S., T. 20, § 3732, amended. The 3rd paragraph of section 3732 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes; as enacted by section 13 of chapter 589 of the public laws of 1969, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

Pupils attending school on a part-time basis shall be counted in proportion to the time attended in order to insure fair and equitable treatment in the distribution of state aid.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is reflected in the title.