

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1013

H. P. 781

House of Representatives, February 21, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Albert of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Relating to Raising Funds for the Support of Public Schools by
Administrative Units.**

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

R. S., T. 20, § 851, amended. The first sentence of the 2nd paragraph of section 851 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 4-A of chapter 589 of the public laws of 1969 and by section 10-A of chapter 530 of the public laws of 1971, is further amended to read as follows:

Every administrative unit shall appropriate by local taxation, annually, for the support of public schools therein, exclusive of the income of any corporate school fund, or of any grant from the revenue or fund from the State, or of any voluntary donation, devise or bequest, or of any forfeiture accruing to the use of schools, not less than \$30 for each inhabitant, according to the latest Federal ~~decennial census~~ **Decennial Census** under penalties as set forth in section 3732, **provided that inhabitants of any school administrative unit who reside on lands owned by the United States or any agency thereof and who are therefore exempt from local property taxation shall not be considered inhabitants within the meaning of this section.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of the foregoing amendment is to rectify a serious inequity in the State Educational General Purpose Aid Program. The statutes as pres-

ently written require the local school administrative unit to raise and expend through property taxation a minimum of \$30 per inhabitant of the unit, as defined by the latest Federal Decennial Census. Several school administrative units in the State contain large numbers of inhabitants who live and work on federal properties such as military bases. Children of families on such bases must be educated in the unit's school system yet the school unit can raise and expend no property taxes from these exempt federal installations. Accordingly, in some cases, in order to qualify for the maximum state subsidy for each child in the school system, the nonbase inhabitants must raise and expend far more than the \$30 required minimum. In fact, one school district in particular, Limestone, must raise and expend \$125 per nonbase inhabitant to qualify for the maximum General Purpose Aid Subsidy. The proposed amendment would produce the equitable result of requiring the \$30 minimum to be raised only from those inhabitants whose property may be reached by local taxation, thus making the burden of qualifying for the subsidy equal among all property taxpayers of the State.