

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1398

H. P. 1076

House of Representatives, March 8, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Stillings of Berwick.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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AN ACT Relating to School District Reorganization.

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

**R. S., T. 20, § 212, sub-§ 2, amended.** The last sentence of subsection 2 of section 212 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 148 of the public laws of 1965, and as amended by section 21 of chapter 610 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

It is the intent of the Legislature that all administrative units shall operate a school program from kindergarten through grade 12. It is further declared to be the intent that all units shall be large enough to encompass 4 Maine townships or a minimum of 1,000 pupils, wherever geographically possible.

Local administrative units may achieve efficiency of school operation in any one of the 4 possibilities provided by law; namely, by forming School Administrative Districts, community school districts, union schools or by entering into cooperative agreements.

It is the intent of the Legislature that school committees, school directors and selectmen shall cooperate in establishing feasible plans for carrying out the intent of this Act on or before July 1, 1974. All units within an area containing municipalities not meeting minimum standards set forth above shall be required to submit a proposal to the commissioner. The proposal shall include plans to increase the efficiency of school operations within the area.

Furthermore, any unit which enrolls fewer than 500 pupils and is not geographically isolated shall continue annually, after July 1, 1974, to submit plans for the consideration of the State Board and the local electorate.

The commissioner is authorized to consult with local officials and recommend approval or disapproval of the proposals to the State Board. The commissioner is further authorized to instruct local officials to call local elections to vote on the acceptance or rejection of the proposals. If the local officials are unable to resolve the method of representation on the new local board within the statutory provisions, the commissioner is authorized to determine the representation on the basis of the latest Federal Decennial Census. Officials of municipalities may appeal to the State Board of Education, under section 51, if they are in disagreement with the decisions of the commissioner.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this legislation is to improve the educational opportunities for children by increasing the size of educational units to gain maximum use of local and state tax dollars. The elected officials in each municipality or administrative unit, where fewer than 500 pupils are educated at public expense, shall annually submit a reorganization proposal to the State Board and to the voters of the unit until the unit contains a minimum of 1,000 pupils or a minimum of 4 townships. Units which are geographically isolated will not be required to submit reorganization proposals.