

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 280

H. P. 224

House of Representatives, January 22, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hewes of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

**AN ACT Providing for Additional Local Expenditures under the School
Subsidy Law.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, certain provisions of the School Subsidy Law require certain school administrative units to spend less for the education of the children in the units than was spent in the preceding fiscal year; and

Whereas, school administrative units will have to reduce their educational progress and reduce teaching staffs to comply with the subsidy law; and

Whereas, a crisis in the education of many of the children of this State is thereby created; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

20 MRSA, § 3713, sub-§ 7, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 783, § 39, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

7. The legislative body of the administrative unit may, in addition to any local funds raised and appropriated under subsection 3, paragraph B, raise and appropriate an amount to provide an additional expenditure per pupil for either elementary or secondary pupils, or both, not to exceed a local appro-

riation of $2\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the state valuation of the unit adjusted to 100%, and for any fiscal year of any unit beginning in 1975, the legislative body of the unit may raise and appropriate the greater of the foregoing amount or an amount sufficient to raise the unit's revenues for all school purposes received from all sources to an amount equal to the expenditures made by the unit during the unit's preceding fiscal year.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

When L. D. 1994, An Act Equalizing the Financial Support of School Units, was presented to the last Legislature, it was generally understood that no unit would be required to spend less than was spent during the unit's preceding fiscal year. Actual experience under the statutory formula has proved otherwise. Certain units under the provisions of the school subsidy law will be required for their immediate fiscal year, despite the inflationary times and local willingness to raise local taxes, to spend less than was spent by the unit in the prior year, placing an extremely difficult burden on the unit and substantially jeopardizing the education of the children involved. There are other bills before the Legislature to make comprehensive revisions in L. D. 1994, but this bill will alleviate the situation for the immediate fiscal year.