

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-890)
107TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P. 1915, L.D. 2101, Bill,
"AN ACT to Return to Local Control of Funding of Public Schools."

Amend said Bill by inserting after the enacting clause
the following:

'Sec. 1. 20 MRSA §358, 4th, 5th and 6th sentences of the
2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 510, §18, are repealed and the
following enacted in place thereof:

The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall
have the responsibility of approving or disapproving all school
bus purchases, contracts and leases. Total expenditures for purchases
of school buses used in transportation of elementary and secondary
students approved by the commissioner during any single year shall
not exceed \$3,000,000 annually. The amount of this limitation
shall be reviewed annually by the Legislature to see if a change
is warranted.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
expenditures for bus purchases approved by the commissioner shall
be reimbursed to administrative units in the fiscal year which
administrative units accept delivery and make the expenditure.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
expenditures for bus purchases approved by the commissioner shall
not be included within expenditure limitations placed on
administrative units by other sections of this Title.

An amount of \$3,000,000 shall be set aside annually by the Legislature for the purchase of school buses. This account shall be a nonlapsing account with balances carried forward annually to be used exclusively for bus purchases.'

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA §3561, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th sentences of the next to the last ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 510, §29, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall have the responsibility of approving or disapproving all school bus purchases, contracts and leases. Total expenditures for purchases of school buses used in transportation of elementary and secondary students approved by the commissioner during any single year shall not exceed \$3,000,000 annually. The amount of this limitation shall be reviewed annually by the Legislature to see if a change is warranted.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, expenditures for bus purchases approved by the commissioner shall be reimbursed to administrative units in the fiscal year which administrative units accept delivery and make the expenditure. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, expenditures for bus purchases approved by the commissioner shall not be included within expenditure limitations placed on administrative units by other sections of this Title.

An amount of \$3,000,000 shall be set aside annually by the Legislature for the purchase of school buses. This account shall be a nonlapsing account with balances carried forward annually to be used exclusively for bus purchases.'

Further amend said Bill by renumbering sections 1 to 6 to be sections 3 to 8.

Statement of Fact

This amendment would:

1. Require reimbursement for school bus purchases in the same year administrative units purchase buses.
2. Remove authority for administrative units to borrow money for bus purchases.
3. Save money in that administrative units would not be permitted to pay interest costs on money borrowed to purchase buses. It is estimated the interest costs for 1975-76 will be \$33,260.21.
4. Set up a continuing nonlapsing fund for bus purchases.
5. Exclude money for bus purchases from any expenditure limitation which may be imposed on local units by other sections of Title 20.

Filed by Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
2/10/76

(Filing No. H-890)