

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

(Filing No. H-910)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "L" to H.P. 2020, L.D. 2196, Bill,
"AN ACT to Revise the Laws Relating to Funding of Public
Schools."

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

'Sec. 1. 20 MRSA §358, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 510,
§18, is further amended by inserting after the 2nd paragraph
the following new paragraph:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 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. The commissioner is
directed to encourage administrative units, whenever possible,
to pay for the cost of new buses from current funds rather
than from short-term loans.'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated
"§3743." by inserting after the underlined word "year" in
the 4th line of subsection 6 (3rd line in L.D.) the underlined
words and figure and punctuation ', increased by 6%,'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part
designated "§3743." by inserting after the underlined word
"year" in the 4th line of subsection 7 (3rd line in L.D.) the
underlined words, figure and punctuation ', increased by 6%,'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3745." by striking out in the first 2 lines of the 2nd paragraph (first line of L.D.) the following "The costs of section 3743, subsection 13, paragraphs C, E, F" and inserting in place thereof the following 'The requested funding levels for section 3743, subsection 13, paragraphs C, E and F'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3747." by inserting at the end of subsection 6, before the period, the following: 'and for subsection 4'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by striking out all of the last sentence of subparagraph (1) of paragraph C of subsection 1 and inserting in place thereof the following:
'The units must live within their estimates as certified by the commissioner and adjusted by the Legislature.'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by striking out all of subparagraph (4) of paragraph C of subsection 1 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'(4) Debt service. Principal and interest costs for major capital projects approved prior to the effective date of this Act shall be reimbursed in the amount of current year costs.'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by striking out all of the first paragraph of paragraph A of subsection 3 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'A. If the administrative unit's average elementary or secondary per pupil operating cost in the base year is less than the basic elementary or secondary per pupil operating rate, the per pupil allocation for elementary or secondary pupils respectively shall be limited to an amount which equals the unit's average per pupil operating cost for the base year, increased by 6%, plus an amount equivalent to 1/3 of the difference between the unit's per pupil elementary or secondary cost for the base year, as adjusted, and the basic elementary or secondary per pupil operating rate respectively.'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by striking out in the 11th line of subsection 4 (8th line in L.D.) the underlined figure "\$95" and inserting in place thereof the underlined figure '\$90'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by striking out in the 13th, 22nd and 25th lines of the first paragraph/(10th, 16th and 19th in L.D.) the underlined figures "\$47.50" and inserting in place thereof the underlined figure '\$45'; and by striking out in the 5th line of the 1st/paragraph of subsection 4 (3rd/in L. D.) the underlined figures "\$47.50" and inserting in place thereof the underlined figure '\$45'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by striking out all of subsection 10 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'10. Reimbursement for transportation. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commissioner shall reimburse 90% of the preceding year's expenditures reported by any municipality for providing the transportation of school children to and from schools other than public schools, except such schools as are operated for profit in whole or in part. The total amount reimbursed under this subsection shall not exceed/for this item under section 3747, subsection 4.'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3748." by adding at the end the following:

'12. Unexpended balances. The commissioner is authorized to apply all unexpended balances in any of the above programs to the major capital fund which shall be a nonlapsing account.'

Further amend said Bill by renumbering sections 1 to 4 to be sections 2 to 5.

Fiscal Note

This amendment would distribute in 1976-77 as follows:

1. Elementary and secondary operating costs	#200,400,000
2. Special education local programs (at 90%)	7,929,770
3. Special education tuition	3,550,000
4. Vocational education (at 90%)	5,967,828
5. Transportation	
a) operating costs (at 90%)	13,903,403
b) bus purchases	1,965,668
6. Debt service	
a) insured value and leases	710,164
b) principal and interest	26,000,000
7. Major capital - for emergency construction needs	200,000
8. Geographic isolation	285,000
9. Unusual enrollment	600,000
10. Private school transportation	180,000
11. Local funds with state participation (1/2 year)	3,300,000
	<u>\$264,991,833</u>
Less PL 874 funds	2,400,000
	<u>\$262,591,833</u>

A uniform property tax rate of 13 mills would raise \$118,048,754 and the balance of \$144,543,079 would be provided from general fund tax sources.

The remainder of the state's obligation for 1975-76 including the amount attributable to leeway being voted by those units presently converting to the uniform fiscal year will require funding through other legislation.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is as follows:

1. Reinstate the 6% increase on local base year per pupil operating costs for one year only.
2. Specify that 90% of private school transportation expenditures would be subject to reimbursement.
3. To apply unexpended balances in all program accounts to the major capital fund which would be a continuing account.

Filed by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
2/18/76

(Filing No. H-910)