

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2358

H. P. 2374

House of Representatives, April 27, 1976

Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Committee on Reference of Bills pursuant to Joint Order, S. P. 635, as Amended. Read twice under suspension of rules and passed to be engrossed without reference to a committee. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Walker of Island Falls.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT Appropriating Funds to the Southern Aroostook Community
School District.

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

Sec. 1. State grant for school funding. Notwithstanding the provision of any other law to the contrary, the Southern Aroostook Community School District, consisting of the towns of Crystal, Dyer Brook, Island Falls, Merrill, Oakfield and Smyrna is granted, for the fiscal year 1976-77 only, the sum of \$72,5000 provided that said district raises the 2 mills of local leeway.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$72,500 to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services for distribution to the Southern Aroostook Community School District for the fiscal year 1976-77.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The 6 towns of Crystal, Dyer Brook, Island Falls, Merrill, Oakfield and Smyrna formed the Southern Aroostook Community School District in March of 1973 to provide one new school for all kindergarten through grade 12 students in the 6-town region. During the construction of the new building, there were 2 fires destroying the building housing the Junior High School

students. The recovery from fire insurance on losses was not sufficient to cover replacement costs of content losses.

The figures for the base year for state reimbursement purposes indicate the elementary per pupil cost for the Southern Aroostook Community School District was approximately \$100 below the state average elementary cost for that year and approximately \$250 below the state average high school pupil cost for that year.

In addition, the enrollment expected for next fall is 255 as compared to the 208 allowed under the reimbursement formula.

Also, new programs in industrial arts and home economics will be added when the school opens in the fall.

In summary, the low cost per pupil for the base year (1974-75), the comparatively low enrollment, (approximately 47 less for the period which is the basis for reimbursement purposes), replacement cost of losses incurred by the 2 fires and finally, the cost of improved programs, caused extraordinary increases in operating costs which are not provided for in the current state reimbursement law.

The amount of \$72,500 requested in this bill will be matched by local tax money raised in excess of the state basic 13 mills and the additional 2 mill leeway.