

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 407

H. P. 316

House of Representatives, February 10, 1977

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and 1,500 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Green of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Extend the Time During which School Budgets may be Adopted.

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

Whereas, the Legislature will consider amendments to the school funding laws that may substantially affect the portion of educational costs borne by property taxes during the current or ensuing fiscal year; and

Whereas, municipalities and school districts are required by law to adopt their annual budgets prior to specified times that may occur before the Legislature has acted upon such amendments; and

Whereas, it is vital that assessments committed for collection during the current or ensuing fiscal year accurately reflect the requirements of the most recent actions of the Legislature in order to avoid hardship or inconvenience to the taxpayers of the State; 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 § 3754** is enacted to read:

§ 3754. School budget adoption period extended

Notwithstanding any provisions of statute or charter to the contrary, municipalities, School Administrative Districts and community school districts may adopt their respective annual budgets at any time prior to May 1, 1977. Municipal officers and school directors or trustees may not certify to the assessors any amount to be raised by taxation until such time as a final budget has been approved that includes the total educational cost estimates for the current or ensuing fiscal year. Expenditures may be made by municipalities or school districts after the commencement of, and prior to adoption of a final budget for, the current or ensuing fiscal years 1977 and 1978 based on interim or partial budgets adopted by the municipal officers, boards of directors of School Administrative Districts, or boards of trustees of community school districts. A final budget approved by a municipality or school district prior to the effective date of this Act may be reconsidered and any warrants issued to assessors pursuant to the adopted budgets may be revoked.

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.