

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 868

H. P. 686

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro.
Cosponsor: Mr. Stubbs of Hallowell.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Improve the Ability of Local Education Agencies to Provide Educational Services to School Dropouts and Chronic Truants.

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

20 MRSA §§ 918 - 921 are enacted to read:

§ 918. Pupil evaluation teams

All school units shall establish for each school, a pupil evaluation team which shall consist of at least 3 teachers, at least 2 parents of children in school and such other administrative personnel of the school unit as the principal shall select. Members of the pupil evaluation team shall be selected by the principal of the school.

§ 919. Habitual truants and dropouts

Any child residing within the area of the school unit who is a habitual truant as defined in section 914 or a dropout as defined in section 932 shall be evaluated by the pupil evaluation team.

§ 920. Recommendations

For each child evaluated by the pupil evaluation team recommendations shall be formulated developing a proposal for a prescriptive educational program.

§ 921. Special education

A child who has dropped out of school or who chronically truants is to be considered an exceptional child and such programs developed in accordance

with section 918, shall be deemed special education for the purpose of reimbursement pursuant to chapter 512-A. Students who qualify for services under this chapter, shall be eligible for all services reimbursed under chapter 512-A, except residential education programs, unless the student's handicapping condition qualifies under chapter 512-A.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Each year more than 3,000 Maine children are reported as school dropouts. Uncounted students are identified as habitual truants. The ability of local school systems to provide adequate assessment of the student's educational problems is limited. This bill would provide state support for prescriptive educational programs, including approved alternative educational programs, which are provided to the student to facilitate his return to the formal education system. For 1,000 students, enactment of this bill would cost \$100,000 in additional local funds and \$900,000 in additional state funds.