

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
108TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-316)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "E" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 968, L.D. 1165, Bill, "AN ACT Relating to the Spending Ceiling for Education Purposes."

Amend the Amendment by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. 20 MRSA §3748, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 1975, c. 746, §24-N, is further amended to read:

B. If the average elementary or secondary per pupil operating cost for the base year in the unit is above the basic elementary or secondary per pupil operating rate, the per pupil allocation for elementary or secondary pupils respectively shall be frozen at 1/2 the difference between the basic elementary or secondary per pupil operating rate respectively and the local average elementary or secondary per pupil operating cost respectively expended during the 1973-74/<sup>school</sup>base year.'

Further amend the Amendment by renumbering sections 3 and 4 to be sections 4 and 5.

Further amend the Amendment by striking out all of the last line before the Statement of Fact and inserting in its place the following: 'in this chapter.'

Further amend the Amendment by inserting at the end before the Statement of Fact the following:

'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to relate the so-called "maintenance of effort" provision of the school finance law to base year rather than to 1973-74 costs. By relating the provision to the base year, a unit spending above the state average would be eligible for 1/2 of the difference between its base year costs and the state average per pupil operating rate. Presently, its eligibility is related to 1973-74 costs and the amount it receives is therefore diminishing each year. This amendment would provide more money from the State to above average spending units. It also changes the effective date so that the entire bill becomes effective July 1, 1977.

Filed by Mrs. Najarian of Portland.

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