

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1273

H. P. 1025

House of Representatives, March 24, 1977

On motion of Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro, referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Carroll of Limerick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Require Towns without Secondary Schools to
Provide Transportation to Secondary Schools.**

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 356I, 1st ¶, 4th sentence, as last amended by PL 1969, c. 336, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

The superintendent of schools in each town shall procure the conveyance of all elementary school pupils residing in his town and, if the town does not have a secondary school, all secondary school pupils residing in his town, a part or the whole of the distance, to and from a secondary school for the number of weeks for which schools are maintained in each year, when such pupils reside at such a distance from the school as in the judgment of the school committee shall render such conveyance necessary; the superintendent shall procure conveyance for special education students to and from classes, whether those classes are conducted by a public or private school outside the administrative unit when the unit does not provide the necessary services. In towns without secondary schools where students are allowed to attend a secondary school of their choice, the town shall be required to offer transportation to at least one secondary school.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the sum of \$117,900 to be spent to reimburse school administrative unit costs for transportation under this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF

All Other

1978-79

\$117,900

STATEMENT OF FACT

It is estimated that costs for the fiscal year, 1978-79 under this bill would be:

State costs	\$117,900
Local costs	\$ 13,100

Costs resulting from this bill are reimbursable by the State one year after the actual local expenditure.

Some 2,500 Maine children reside in towns without secondary schools which do not provide transportation to students. This absence of school-provided transportation results in dangers to the safety of students, places difficult hardship on many families and contributes to the school truancy and dropout problem. This bill will mandate proper conveyance of such students to at least one secondary school. The average per pupil transportation cost amounts to approximately \$65.