

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1544

H. P. 1307

House of Representatives, April 12, 1977

On motion of Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls, referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Beaulieu of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Require Two-way Radios on School Buses Operated by School Administrative Units.

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

29 MRSA § 2015, sub-§ 5 is enacted to read:

5. Two-way radios. Each school bus owned, operated or contracted for by each school administrative unit in the State shall, by no later than September 1, 1980, be equipped with a 2-way radio.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Department of Educational and Cultural Services estimates that the total cost of equipping its school buses would be roughly \$900,000. Because the radios do not have to be installed until September 1, 1980, the burden of the cost is spread over a 3-year period.

This amount is derived by multiplying an estimated average cost per bus (i.e., \$500) by the approximate number of buses in Maine which do not now have 2-way radios (i.e., 1,800 buses). The department recently completed a survey which showed that roughly 300 school buses out of a total number of 2,100 school buses are equipped with 2-way radios.

For the roughly 1,600 existing buses owned by the school administrative units, the State will pay for 90% of the costs of installing and maintaining 2-way radios and the local school units will pay for 10% of the costs. For new school buses purchased by the school administrative units after the effective date of this Act, the State will pay for the total cost of installing the radios, but the local units will pay for 10% of the maintenance costs thereafter.

Roughly 500 of the total number of buses are contracted for by the school administrative unit. The owners of these buses will pay for the 2-way radios. However, the cost of the radios will be passed on to the school administrative units through higher contract costs. Ultimately the State will reimburse the local units for 90% of these contract costs.

The purpose of this bill is to require all school administrative units to equip their buses with 2-way radios by no later than September 1, 1980.