

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1718

H. P. 1456

House of Representatives, April 27, 1977

Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council, pursuant to Joint Rule 25.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Garsoe of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Extend the School Budget Adoption Date until June 15th.

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

Whereas, the Legislature is considering proposals for removal of the spending ceiling on education; and

Whereas, the Legislature is considering proposals on special education; and

Whereas, the Legislature is considering proposals on vocational education; and

Whereas, in order to permit school administrative units to adopt budgets based upon legislative action on the above aspects of school financing, the date for adoption of school budgets must be extended until June 15th; 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:

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 3754, 1st sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 48, § 2, is further amended to read:

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 15th~~ June 15th, 1977.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 3754, last sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 48, § 2, is further amended to read:

If a municipal charter provides that a budget proposed by a municipal official or body becomes effective when the municipal legislative body fails to adopt a budget by a specified date or within a specified period of time and that date falls prior to ~~May 15th~~ June 15th, that date shall be governed by the provisions of this section for the calendar year 1977.

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 to make available to all administrative units the complete information on legislative proposals currently being considered, such as:

1. The spending ceiling;
2. Special education; and
3. Vocational education.

It is necessary to extend the May 15th date to June 15th in order to give local school committees and boards of directors ample time to make final recommendations to the legislative body.

It is essential to extend the date for final adoption of school budgets.

The Education Committee is still working on various bills which will have a definite impact on local budgets: First, the ceiling bills, 2 of which have been recommitted, L. D. 602 and L. D. 1165; second, vocational education bills, L. D. 122 and L. D. 1329, must be dealt with, especially L. D. 1329 which, if approved, will need an additional appropriation of \$431,000 plus; and third, special education bills which will effect local budgets are L. D. 284, L. D. 712 and L. D. 1169.

Once the Education Committee reports out the bills which are identified above, the legislative process will at best take a week to 10 days for final action. It will take some time for the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to prepare and distribute printouts for each administrative unit and meet with superintendents of schools.

The local school committee and board of directors will then evaluate the effect this has on local budgets and take final action.

Posting of warrants calling for budget meetings adds 7 to 10 days.

For these reasons a request for the time extension appears to be a reasonable one.