

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 873

H. P. 695

House of Representatives, March 1, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Connolly of Portland, referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

Cosponsor: Mr. Sherburne of Dexter.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Increase the Initial Local Share of School Construction Projects.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 3471, sub-§ 2, ¶ E, 2nd sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 690, § 12, is amended to read:

In an article submitted to the legislative body of an administrative unit seeking a favorable vote on a school construction project, it shall be clearly indicated that, in addition to the ~~5% or 1 mill~~ **15% or 3 mills** local share of the total cost of the project, the entire additional operating costs of the new project during its first 2 years shall be borne by revenues raised by the local administrative unit.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 3472, sub-§ 1, first ¶, as amended by PL 1977, c. 690, § 12-A, is further amended to read:

The unit's initial share of the total cost of each project shall be either ~~5%~~ **15%** of the total cost or the equivalent of ~~one mill~~ **3 mills** multiplied by the unit's initial state valuation, whichever is less. The ~~one mill~~ **3 mills** shall be calculated on the state valuation in effect at the time the project is first approved by the State Board of Education. The unit's initial share shall be applied to the project costs during the period of construction. The unit's initial share may be derived from

either local appropriations or gifts or any combination of gifts and local appropriations. The unit's initial share shall not be considered an educational cost for purposes of subsidy reimbursement under chapter 515.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this legislation is to increase the initial local share of school construction costs from 5% or 1 mill of state valuation, whichever is less, to 15% or 3 mills, whichever is less. There is widespread belief that it is too easy to get new schools built because the state is footing most of the bill. This legislation will help correct that situation.