

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1266

S. P. 402

In Senate, March 15, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Trotzky of Penobscot.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Amend the Statutes Governing Vocational Regions.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 2356-B, 3rd sentence, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 690, § 10-B, is amended to read:

Cooperative boards of vocational regions are authorized to **expend available revenues to meet debt service and security and maintenance of property costs and** to accept and expend special grants from state and federal sources, **notwithstanding any other statute.**

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-§ 1, last paragraph, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 513, § 10, is amended to read:

~~The boundaries of the 11 regions shall not be changed except by action of the Legislature, provided that any~~ Any unit contracting for secondary education outside of its region shall become a part of the region **or center** where such a contract exists.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-1, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 205, §§ 8 and 9, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

A region may be subdivided into 2 or more vocational regions upon the submission of a plan by the cooperative board of that region to the State Board of Education

for approval. If outstanding debt exists in a region, subdivision requires a plan approved by the Legislature for the payment of the debt. Whenever a new region is organized, it shall be a separate administrative unit to deliver vocational education to its member units in accordance with this Title.

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-§ 3, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 205, § 10, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Membership of the cooperative board shall consist of citizens of the region. A majority of the members shall be elected members of a school committee, board of directors, or are elected municipal officials of the member administrative units. Each member administrative unit shall be represented on the cooperative board in approximately the same ratio to the total membership of the board as the unit's latest federal decennial census is to the latest federal decennial census of the member units. Those citizens who hold another office which has duties conflicting with those of the cooperative board shall not be selected.

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-§ 6, 3rd paragraph, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 690, § 11-A, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Each unit's total share and net share of the vocational budget as finally approved by the cooperative board shall be placed in the unit's local school budget. The unit's net share shall be the difference between the unit's total share and the state allocation for vocational education paid to the treasurer of the cooperative board on behalf of the unit. Initial costs for starting new vocational education programs may be financed by a local tax outside of any additional appropriation now authorized in section 4751, subsection 3.

Sec. 6. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-§ 6, 5th paragraph, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 205, § 15, is repealed and the following enacted in its place

A vote on the budget of the vocational region shall be completed at the same time as the regular school budget. Whenever the budget fails to pass, or when a special region budget meeting is called by the cooperative board after having declared that an emergency exists, the cooperative board shall prepare the new budget, or special budget, and submit the necessary articles to the budget meeting of the vocational region called in the manner set forth in this subsection.

Sec. 7. 20 MRSA § 4750, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

State allocation payments for vocational education allocations in regions shall be paid directly to the treasurers of the cooperative boards.

Sec. 8. 20 MRSA § 4750, sub-§ 5, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8, is repealed.

Sec. 9. Validation. Any regular or special budget adopted as authorized by section 6 of this Act prior to the effective date of this Act shall be validated, approved and declared legal.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to make it possible for:

1. The state portion of vocational education allocations to be paid directly to the treasurers of the cooperative boards;
2. Giving authorization to cooperative boards to expend available revenues;
3. The subdivision of existing regions;
4. Giving assurance that the majority of the membership of cooperative boards be elected officials; and
5. The preparation of new or special budgets to be prepared by the cooperative board when any emergency exists.