

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1705

H. P. 1594

Office of the Clerk of the House

The Committee on Education suggested. Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Presented by Mrs. Reeves of Pittston.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT Relating to Budgetary Hardship in Maintaining Special Education Students.

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

**Sec. 1.** 20 MRSA § 4749, sub-§ 6, ¶ A, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**A.** If an administrative unit petitions the commissioner and demonstrates that the unexpected costs of placement of a student in a special education program will cause a budgetary hardship, the commissioner may adjust the unit's allocation to include an amount not to exceed the cost of the placement.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF

Special Education Contingency  
Account

All Other

1980-81

\$500,000

## STATEMENT OF FACT

Presently, administrative units can only petition for budgetary hardship for the initial placement of a child in a "special education facility." Since the goal of special education is to serve the child in the least restrictive environment, the option should be available to allow for the possibility of applying for aid to cover the unexpected and exceptionally high costs of maintaining a child in a regular school program.