

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 610

S. P. 223

In Senate, February 4, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Trotzky of Penobscot.

Cosponsors: Representative Nelson of Portland, Representative Rolde of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Provide for Reimbursement under the Education Finance Act for Programs for Gifted and Talented Children.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 4743, sub-§ 18, ¶¶ A and B, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 8, are amended to read:

A. The costs of certified professionals, assistants and aides or persons contracted to perform a special education service; and

B. The costs of tuition and board to other schools for programs which have been approved by the commissioner; and

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 4743, sub-§ 18, ¶ C is enacted to read:

C. The costs of programs for gifted and talented children which have been approved by the commissioner.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Gifted and talented education programs could be reimbursed by the State under the School Finance Act along with other special education costs. The local

districts would have the option to develop a program or not. If they wish to develop a program, it would be included within the special education costs which are reimbursed 2 years after they are expended. This is the most easily managed way of dealing with gifted and talented programs. This does not mean that the procedures in place for serving special education children would apply to gifted and talented children. Local schools would have a good deal of flexibility in developing their programs as they have with the competitive grants. The department would establish minimum standards for the programs in order to assure that the programs make educational sense in working with these children.