

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1076

H. P. 910 House of Representatives, March 2, 1981
Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Rolde of York.

Cosponsors: Senator Clark of Cumberland and Representative Murphy of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend Special Education Statutes for Support of Special Education Programs and Services Provided in Excess of the Normal School Year.

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

7 MRSA § 3125, sub-§ 7, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 564, § 87-B, is amended to read:

7. **Approval of programs.** The commissioner may approve such programs for the usual public year, or for ~~a year round basis~~ **an extended school year**, or for such other periods as he determines appropriate **in accordance with section 3132.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Legislature recognizes that approximately 3% of exceptional students may require special education beyond that normally provided during the regular school year in order to insure equal educational opportunities.

Maine special education regulations limit state participation for special education expenditures to 40 weeks. School administrative units, state and private agencies may be required to provide appropriate programs and services beyond

the normal school year. Court decisions and Office of Civil Rights Rulings in other states have ordered that certain students be provided services in excess of the normal school year.

Maine Department of Educational and Cultural Services has proposed an amendment to remove the 40-week limitation and to provide for inclusion in the state-local allocation special education expenditures up to 44 weeks for an extended school year.

School administrative units may be required to increase local special education expenditures. It is estimated that the 3% of exceptional students, or approximately 700, may require additional services. It is projected that the cost may be \$450—\$500 per student. These expenditures would increase the 1983-84 General Purpose Aid Program by approximately \$178,200.