

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 430

6
7 S.P. 163

In Senate, February 5, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

9 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

10 Presented by Senator McBreairty of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senator Brown of Washington, Representative Smith of Mars Hill and Representative Crouse of Caribou.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Require Equal Treatment for
18 Taxpayers in the Unorganized
19 Territory.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15510-A is enacted to read:

24 §15510-A. Unorganized territory

25 For purposes of sections 15501 to 15510, the un-
26 organized territory shall be treated as a school ad-
27 ministrative unit.

28 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4312, as enacted by PL 1983, c.
29 577, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its
30 place:

31 §4312. Unorganized territory

1 Residents of the unorganized territory shall be
2 eligible for general assistance in the same manner as
3 provided in this chapter. The commissioner shall es-
4 tablish standards of eligibility for the unorganized
5 territory and shall have the same responsibilities
6 with regard to the unorganized territory as apply to
7 overseers in a municipality. The commissioner may
8 appoint agents to administer the general assistance
9 program within the unorganized territory. All costs
10 of providing general assistance in the unorganized
11 territory shall be charged to the Unorganized Terri-
12 tory Education and Services Fund established under
13 Title 36, chapter 115, except that costs which the
14 State would reimburse under section 4311 if the unor-
15 ganized territory were a municipality shall be paid
16 by the General Fund.

17 Sec. 3. 30 MRSA §5055, sub-§7 is enacted to
18 read:

19 7. Unorganized territory. For purposes of
20 state-municipal revenue sharing, the unorganized ter-
21 ritory shall be treated as if it were a municipality.

22 Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §578, sub-§2, as amended by PL
23 1981, c. 706, §8, is further amended by adding at
24 the end a new paragraph to read:

25 The State Tax Assessor shall reimburse the unorga-
26 nized territory for property taxes lost as a result
27 of this chapter in the same manner provided for mu-
28 nicipalities under subsection 1. The amount of reim-
29 bursement due shall be paid into the Unorganized Ter-
30 ritory Education and Services Fund established in
31 chapter 115.

32 Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §661, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

33 5. Unorganized territory. The unorganized ter-
34 ritory shall be entitled to reimbursement under this
35 section in the same manner provided by this section
36 for municipalities. The amount of reimbursement due
37 shall be paid into the Unorganized Territory Educa-
38 tion and Services Fund established in chapter 115.

39 Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §2861, sub-§5 is enacted to
40 read:

1 5. Unorganized territory. The unorganized ter-
2 ritory shall be entitled to reimbursement under this
3 section in the same manner provided by this section
4 for municipalities. The amount of reimbursement due
5 shall be paid into the Unorganized Territory Educa-
6 tion and Services Fund established in chapter 115.

7

STATEMENT OF FACT

8 This bill equalizes the treatment of the unorga-
9 nized territory for purposes of several programs
10 which were intended to relieve the burden on the lo-
11 cal property tax or to provide reimbursement for
12 state enacted property tax exemptions. Currently,
13 the unorganized territory pays for all of its "munic-
14 ipal" services through a property tax in the same
15 manner as a municipality.

16 Section 1 of this bill permits the unorganized
17 territory to be treated like a municipality for pur-
18 poses of calculating state reimbursement for educa-
19 tional costs.

20 Section 2 permits the unorganized territory to be
21 treated like a municipality for purposes of state re-
22 imbursement for general assistance costs.

23 Section 3 permits the unorganized territory to
24 receive state-local revenue sharing.

25 Section 4 permits the unorganized territory to
26 receive reimbursement like a municipality for proper-
27 ty taxes lost as a result of tree growth valuation.

28 Section 5 permits the unorganized territory to
29 receive 50% reimbursement for taxes lost as a result
30 of property tax exemptions enacted by the Legislature
31 since April 1, 1979.

32 Section 6 permits the unorganized territory to
33 receive reimbursement for property taxes lost as a
34 result of the property tax exemptions granted under
35 the mining excise tax.

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