

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1580

6  
7 H.P. 1087

House of Representatives, May 24, 1985

8 Reported by Representative Crouse for the Majority from the Special  
9 Commission to Study the Implementation of Educational Reform pursuant to  
10 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13510 and printed pursuant to  
Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Implement Teacher Recognition  
18 Grants and Establish a Minimum Salary  
19 for Teachers.  
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSa §§13403 and 13404 are enacted  
24 to read:

25 §13403. Minimum salaries for 1986-87

26 1. Minimum salaries. Each school administrative  
27 unit shall establish a minimum starting salary of  
28 \$14,500 for a certified teacher with a bachelor de-  
29 gree for the school year starting July 1, 1986.

30 2. State funds; nonlapsing fund. Each school  
31 unit is eligible to receive a block grant equal to  
32 the aggregate amount of educator recognition grants  
33 paid to the unit's educators in August 1986. If a  
34 school unit does not expend the total block grant to

1 increase educator salaries above 105% of 1985-86 sal-  
2 ary levels, the unallocated portion of the block  
3 grant shall be returned to the State and placed in a  
4 nonlapsing account.

5 §13404. Minimum salaries for 1987-88

6 1. Minimum salaries. Each school administrative  
7 unit shall establish a minimum starting salary of  
8 \$16,000 for a certified teacher with a bachelor's de-  
9 gree for the school year starting July 1, 1987.

10 2. State funds. Each school unit is eligible to  
11 receive a block grant equal to twice the aggregate  
12 amount of the educator recognition grants paid to the  
13 unit's educator in August 1986, plus a prorated share  
14 of the nonlapsing fund created in section 13403, sub-  
15 section 2. If a school unit does not expend the total  
16 block grant to increase educator salaries above 105%  
17 of 1986-87 salary levels, the unallocated portion may  
18 be used to implement educator recognition plans ap-  
19 proved by the commissioner for any of the following:

20 A. Master teacher plans;

21 B. Career ladders;

22 C. Instructional staff development;

23 D. Paraprofessionals for noninstructional du-  
24 ties;

25 E. Longer school year for teachers; and

26 F. Other areas for educator recognition as de-  
27 termined by the local unit.

28 3. Maintenance of effort. The superintendent  
29 must certify in the educator recognition plan that  
30 the school unit has maintained its level of funding  
31 at 1986-87 levels plus 5%.

32 4. Public participation in educator recognition  
33 plan. Education Recognition Plans in subsection 3,  
34 shall be based upon public participation, including  
35 teachers, administrators, school board members and  
36 the public.

1           Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13501, first ¶, as enacted by  
2 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §2, is amended to read:

3           This chapter establishes the ~~Teacher~~ Educator  
4 Recognition Grants Program, a state-funded program to  
5 recognize the importance of teachers in our state's  
6 schools.

7           Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13502, sub-§2, as enacted by  
8 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §2, is amended to read:

9           2. Educator. "~~Teacher~~" "Educator" means a per-  
10 son certified by the Department of Educational and  
11 Cultural Services who is an employee of a public  
12 school, an eligible private school or a state oper-  
13 ated school including elementary and secondary teach-  
14 er,                   specialized                   subject                   teacher,  
15 vocational-industrial teacher as defined in the cer-  
16 tification rules of the State Board of Education.  
17 "~~Teacher~~" "Educator" includes, by position title, on-  
18 ly the following:

- 19           A. Classroom teacher;
- 20           B. Itinerant teacher;
- 21           C. Guidance counselor;
- 22           D. Librarian-media specialist;
- 23           E. Special education teacher;
- 24           F. Special teacher of reading; and
- 25           G. Speech clinician-teacher.

26           Grant recipients shall not include persons pro-  
27 viding contract services to a school administrative  
28 unit or units. All educators on approved sabbatical  
29 leave, who are expected to resume their position in a  
30 local school unit, shall be included as recipients of  
31 these grants. Substitute teachers and educators em-  
32 ployed less than a full recognition grant period  
33 shall not be eligible for those grants.

34           Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §13502, sub-§3 is enacted to  
35 read:

1           3. Recognition grant period. "Recognition grant  
2 period" means the fall or spring half of a school  
3 year as defined by the commissioner.

4           Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §13503, as enacted by PL 1983,  
5 c. 859, Pt. J, §§2 and 7, is amended to read:

6           §13503. Teacher recognition grants

7           ~~Teacher Educator~~ recognition grants of up to  
8 \$1,000 shall be awarded ~~twice during the school year~~  
9 ~~once during each of 2 recognition grant periods to~~  
10 ~~only those teachers educators~~ who have been employed  
11 ~~full time~~ in qualifying schools since the first day  
12 ~~of each corresponding semester.~~ ~~Teachers employed~~  
13 ~~less than full time or less than a full semester, as~~  
14 ~~determined by the qualifying school, shall not re-~~  
15 ~~ceive a prorated grant amount.~~

16           The grants will be prorated to persons whose as-  
17 signments are less than full time or who job share a  
18 single position. No individual educator may require  
19 more than 100% of a grant in any recognition grant  
20 period.

21           Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §13505, as enacted by PL 1983,  
22 c. 859, Pt. J, §2, is amended to read:

23           §13505. Local filing; certification

24           Qualifying schools Superintendents of school  
25 units shall file with the commissioner a certified  
26 list of teachers educators eligible to receive grants  
27 under this chapter, including their names, mailing  
28 addresses, social security numbers, income tax with-  
29 holding status and current salary. Filing informa-  
30 tion shall be submitted on or before January 15th for  
31 the February 15th schedule of payment; the filing for  
32 the August 15th schedule of payment shall be submit-  
33 ted on or before July 15th.

34           Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §13506, sub-§§1-A and 2-A are  
35 enacted to read:

36           1-A. Determination of grant amount. The Commis-  
37 sioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall re-

1 view this list of eligible recipients and determine  
2 the amount of each grant by dividing the total number  
3 of full-time equivalent educator positions into the  
4 budget allotments as recommended in Public Law 1983,  
5 chapter 859, minus the cost of the review panel in  
6 subsection 2-A.

7 2-A. Appeal. Educators may appeal the assigned  
8 Educator Recognition Grant in writing to a Grant Re-  
9 view Panel or Panels by March 15, 1986, for the grant  
10 assigned February 15th and by September 15th for the  
11 August 15th grant. The panel or panels shall be com-  
12 posed of one representative of teachers, one repre-  
13 sentative of school management and one member of the  
14 public. The panel or panels shall be established by  
15 the commissioner.

16 Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §15602, sub-§1, as enacted by  
17 by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, is amended to  
18 read:

19 1. Contributions from General Fund. It is the  
20 intent of the Legislature to provide at least 50% of  
21 the cost of the basic education allocation from Gen-  
22 eral Fund revenue sources or a percentage no less  
23 than that provided in the year prior to the year of  
24 allocation, whichever is greater.

25 In computing the percentage state share under this  
26 section for fiscal year 1988-89 and fiscal year  
27 1989-90, the State's share shall be adjusted by add-  
28 ing the block grant costs under sections 13403 and  
29 13404 to the state share. The resulting increase in  
30 the State's percentage share shall be used to estab-  
31 lish the new minimum state share in fiscal year  
32 1990-91 and subsequent years.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2           This bill is the majority report of the commis-  
3 sion to study the implementation of educational re-  
4 form. The bill amends the statutes governing teacher  
5 recognition grants by changing the designation from  
6 "teacher" to the broader term "educator." It also ex-  
7 tends the coverage of the grants to educators who  
8 work part time, job share, are on sabbatical leave or  
9 who are teaching administrators. In these latter  
10 cases the grants would be prorated to include only  
11 the portion of time they were working in the areas  
12 designated under the definition of educator.

13           The bill establishes minimum salaries for teach-  
14 ers for 1986-87 of \$14,500 and for 1987-88 of  
15 \$16,000. The State will help pay for these minimum  
16 salaries by giving the money allocated for teacher  
17 recognition grants as block grants to school units on  
18 the same per teacher ratio as used in distributing  
19 teacher recognition grants in 1985-86. The block  
20 grant money not used to enhance teacher salaries in  
21 1986-87 will revert to a nonlapsing, state account to  
22 be distributed in 1987-88. The grant money, including  
23 the nonlapsing account money from the previous year,  
24 not spent on enhancing teacher salaries in 1987-88,  
25 may be used to implement local teacher recognition  
26 plans. These plans may include funding master teacher  
27 plans, career ladders, instructional staff develop-  
28 ment, paraprofessionals for noninstructional duties,  
29 longer school year for teachers and other areas for  
30 educator recognition. In both 1986-87 and 1987-88,  
31 school units must raise educator salaries by 5% be-  
32 fore they can use the block grant money to fund in-  
33 creased education salaries.

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