

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
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5 Legislative Document

No. 1582

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7 H.P. 1089

House of Representatives, May 24, 1985

8 Reported by Representative Bell for a Minority 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

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11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
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14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
16

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17 AN ACT to Implement Teacher Recognition  
18 Grants, Establish a Summer Grants  
19 Program for Teachers and Establish a  
20 Minimum Salary for 1986-87.  
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22 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
23 follows:

24 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 318 is enacted to read:

25 CHAPTER 318

26 SUMMER GRANTS PROGRAM

27 §8851. Purpose

28 There is established a summer grants program the  
29 purpose of which is to encourage school administra-  
30 tive units to improve the quality education and the  
31 expertise and status of teaching as a profession in  
32 Maine.

1     §8852. Plans

2             To be eligible for the grants, local units must  
3 have a plan approved by the commissioner specifying  
4 what they will include in the summer program.

5             1. Development. The plan shall be developed by  
6 a team of teachers, administrators, parents and com-  
7 munity members. The teachers shall be selected by  
8 teachers in the school unit and shall comprise 1/2 of  
9 the team. The remaining members shall be selected by  
10 the school board.

11            2. Approval. The school board shall approve the  
12 plan prior to submission to the commissioner.

13            3. Content. The plans may include, but not be  
14 limited to, continued and inservice training for  
15 teachers, curriculum planning and remedial, extra  
16 curricular and other educational enrichment programs  
17 for students.

18            4. Impact on wages, salaries and working condi-  
19 tions. The commissioner shall not approve a program  
20 unless the collective bargaining agent for the teach-  
21 ers involved certifies that the school administrative  
22 unit has satisfied its obligations to bargaining un-  
23 der Title 26.

24     §8853. Teacher

25             For the purposes of state funding under this  
26 chapter, teacher shall have the same definition as  
27 "educator" as defined in section 13502, subsection 2.

28     §8854. Summer stipend

29             The summer stipend shall be at the same rate of  
30 pay as the school year salary.

31     §8855. State funding

32             The State shall make available to every school  
33 administrative unit money equal to the cost of the  
34 stipends of teachers participating in the summer pro-  
35 gram, but not to exceed the average rate of pay for  
36 teachers in the unit for 7 weeks for up to 1/2 of the

1 number of full-time equivalent teachers in the unit  
2 in the summer of 1986 and subsequent years.

3       Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13403 is enacted to read:

4 §13403. Minimum salaries for 1986-87

5       Each school administrative unit shall establish a  
6 minimum starting salary of \$12,000 for a certified  
7 teacher with a bachelor degree for the school year  
8 starting July 1, 1986.

9       Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13501, first ¶, as enacted by  
10 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §§2 and 7, is amended to  
11 read:

12       This chapter establishes the Teacher Educator  
13 Recognition Grants Program, a state-funded program to  
14 recognize the importance of teachers in our state's  
15 schools.

16       Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §13502, sub-§2, as enacted by  
17 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §§2 and 7, is amended to  
18 read:

19       2. Educator. "~~Teacher~~" "Educator" means a per-  
20 son certified by the Department of Educational and  
21 Cultural Services who is an employee of a public  
22 school, an eligible private school or a state oper-  
23 ated school including elementary and secondary teach-  
24 er, specialized subject teacher,  
25 vocational-industrial teacher as defined in the cer-  
26 tification rules of the State Board of Education.  
27 "~~Teacher~~" "Educator" includes, by position title, on-  
28 ly the following:

- 29       A. Classroom teacher;
- 30       B. Itinerant teacher;
- 31       C. Guidance counselor;
- 32       D. Librarian-media specialist;
- 33       E. Special education teacher;
- 34       F. Special teacher of reading; and

1 G. Speech clinician-teacher.

2 Grant recipients shall not include persons providing  
3 contract services to a school administrative unit or  
4 units. All educators on approved sabbatical leave  
5 who are expected to resume their position in a local  
6 school unit shall be included as recipients of these  
7 grants. Substitute teachers and educators employed  
8 less than a full recognition grant period shall not  
9 be eligible for those grants.

10 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §13502, sub-§3 is enacted to  
11 read:

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

15 Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §§13503, 13504 and 13505, as  
16 enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §2 and 7, are  
17 amended to read:

18 §13503. Educator recognition grants

19 Teacher Educator recognition grants of up to  
20 \$1,000 shall be awarded twice during the school year  
21 once to only those teachers educators who have been  
22 employed full time in qualifying schools since the  
23 first day of each corresponding semester. Teachers  
24 employed less than full time or less than a full se-  
25 mester, as determined by the qualifying school, shall  
26 not receive a prorated grant amount.

27 The grants will be prorated to persons whose as-  
28 signments are less than full time or who job-share a  
29 single position. No individual educator may require  
30 more than 100% of a grant in any recognition grant  
31 period.

32 §13504. Schedule of payment

33 Grants will be issued by the Treasurer of State  
34 on February 15th and August 15th of 1986.

35 §13505. Local filing; certification

1 Qualifying schools Superintendents of school  
2 units shall file with the commissioner a certified  
3 list of teachers educators eligible to receive grants  
4 under this chapter, including their names, mailing  
5 addresses, social security numbers, income tax with-  
6 holding status and current salary. Filing informa-  
7 tion shall be submitted on or before January 15th for  
8 the February 15th schedule of payment; the filing for  
9 the August 15th schedule of payment shall be submit-  
10 ted on or before July 15th.

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

13 1-A. Determination of grant amount. The Commis-  
14 sioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall re-  
15 view this list of eligible recipients and determine  
16 the amount of each grant by dividing the total number  
17 of full-time equivalent educator positions into the  
18 budget allotments as recommended in Public Law 1983,  
19 chapter 859, minus the cost of the review panel in  
20 subsection 2-A.

21 2-A. Appeal. Educators may appeal the assigned  
22 Educator Recognition Grant in writing to a Grant Re-  
23 view Panel or Panels by March 15, 1986, for the grant  
24 assigned February 15th. The panel or panels shall  
25 be composed of one representative of teachers, one  
26 representative of school management and one member of  
27 the public. The panel or panels shall be established  
28 by the commissioner.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 This bill is a minority report of the Commission  
31 to Study the Implementation of Educational Reform.

32 Section 1 of the bill establishes a summer grant  
33 program, extended school year for teachers. As a  
34 mechanism for providing a salary enhancement for  
35 teachers to bring them up to the year around earnings  
36 of professionals in other sectors of the economy.

37 Currently teachers' salaries are artificially de-  
38 pressed because they are not provided the same  
39 year-round earning possibilities as other profes-

1 sions. Professionals in State Government and local  
2 government, the health sector or private enterprise  
3 are able to find professional employment on a year  
4 around basis while teachers are employed only for the  
5 school year. This artificially depresses teacher  
6 salaries by from 17% to 30% depending upon whether  
7 one considers their present salary to include paid  
8 vacation and holidays.

9 This bill corrects this inequity by providing  
10 summer or extended school year employment opportuni-  
11 ties for 1/2 of the teachers in 1986 and subsequent  
12 years. The extended employment of teachers will also  
13 provide the resources to upgrade the quality of edu-  
14 cation across the State. Local school units will es-  
15 tablish plans for how this resource of teacher time  
16 will be used, but they are envisioned to include  
17 training to increase the skills and capabilities of  
18 their teaching staff, development of course materials  
19 and curricula, and, if desired, extra curricular and  
20 enrichment courses for interested students and ex-  
21 panded remedial programs for those having difficulty.

22 Based on an estimated average salary of \$20,000  
23 for the school year 1986 and 14,500 full-time equiva-  
24 lent educators, the cost of the program is estimated  
25 a \$13.5 million for the summer of 1986 and \$27 mil-  
26 lion for the summer of 1987.

27 Section 2 of the bill established a minimum sala-  
28 ry of \$12,000. The intent here is to bring the sala-  
29 ries of those units with very low starting salaries  
30 up to a more reasonable minimum base salary. Based  
31 on 1984-85 salaries with a 5% increase for each of  
32 the next 2 years, there would still be 35 school  
33 units with beginning salaries of under \$12,000. The  
34 total cost of bringing these units' salary scales up  
35 to a \$12,000 base, would be \$373,967. If the in-  
36 creased state aid already provided units through the  
37 fall 1984 revision in the School Finance Act of 1985  
38 were applied to salary increases, then there would  
39 only be 11 school administrative units with beginning  
40 salaries under \$12,000. The cost of bringing these  
41 units' salary scales up to a \$12,000 base would be  
42 \$82,126.

1           Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 amend the statutes gov-  
2           erning teacher recognition grants by changing the  
3           designation from "teacher" to the broader term "edu-  
4           cator." It also extends the coverage of the grants  
5           to educators who work part time, job share, are on  
6           sabbatical leave or who are teaching administrators.  
7           In these latter cases the grants would be prorated to  
8           include only the portion of time they were working in  
9           the areas designated under the definition of educa-  
10          tor.

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