

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1360

S.P. 446

In Senate, April 28, 1987

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator ESTES of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Wells-Ogunquit Community
School District Charter.

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

P&SL 1979, c. 45, §6, last 2 ¶¶ are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

Operational, maintenance and capital costs apportionment between the Town of Wells and the Town of Ogunquit: The total expenses of the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District, including operational, maintenance, debt retirement, interest costs, etc., shall be apportioned between the participating Towns of Ogunquit and Wells according to the following formulas:

1 1. Before July 1, 1988, 100% of the total shall
2 be assessed between the towns in the same proportion
3 as the state valuation of each town for the year pre-
4 ceding that year to which the budget applies bears to
5 the total for both towns; and

6 2. After June 30, 1988, costs shall be assessed
7 between the towns according to a combination of state
8 valuation and pupil counts according to the following
9 schedule:

10	<u>School Year</u>	<u>Pupils</u>	<u>Valuation</u>
11	<u>1988-89</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>85%</u>
12	<u>1989-90</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>70%</u>
13	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>45%</u>	<u>55%</u>
14	<u>1991-92</u>	<u>60%</u>	<u>40%</u>
15	<u>1992-93 and subsequent</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>25%</u>
16	<u>years</u>		

17 Notwithstanding this schedule, the Town of Wells lo-
18 cal share of the costs shall not be greater than it
19 would have been if the State's subsidy had been cal-
20 culated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A,
21 section 15609. Until July 1, 1996, the Town of
22 Ogunquit, in addition to its share of the costs cal-
23 culated in accordance with this schedule, shall be
24 assessed for the difference between the State's sub-
25 sidy calculated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Ti-
26 tle 20-A, section 15609 and the State's share calcu-
27 lated under the original agreement allowing the towns
28 to separate.

29 3. Notwithstanding the local cost sharing method
30 described in subsection 2, the local share of the
31 cost of any school construction project voted on in a
32 referendum after June 30, 1988, shall be divided be-
33 tween the 2 towns on a per pupil basis.

34 An addition to, dissolution of or withdrawal from the
35 community school district may be accomplished under
36 the procedures available to other community school
37 districts as specified in the Maine Revised Statutes,
38 Title 20-A, section 1751, except until July 1, 1996,
39 the provisions specified in this paragraph and the
40 following paragraph for sharing the educational costs
41 between the 2 towns and the State shall control the

1 determination of the State's share.

2 Until June 30, 1996, the community school dis-
3 trict created in this Act shall not receive any state
4 educational subsidy greater in amount than that which
5 the Town of Wells would have received separately.

6

STATEMENT OF FACT

7 This bill addresses the problem of the high
8 school tax rate assessed Ogunquit. The high rate is
9 caused by 2 factors. First, Ogunquit's high state
10 valuation and low number of pupils means that they
11 are paying part of Wells school taxes when the local
12 share of school costs are shared entirely on the ba-
13 sis of state valuation. The 2nd part of the problem
14 is a stipulation in the original agreement with the
15 State which allowed the 2 towns to separate. The
16 towns agreed that the dissolution would not cause the
17 state to pay any more state aid to the 2 towns before
18 July 1, 1996, than it would have paid if the towns
19 had remained united. Ogunquit paid the additional
20 school costs which, after July 1, 1996, will be part
21 of the State subsidy. This bill, over a phase-in pe-
22 riod, has Wells assume its share of the local educa-
23 tional costs. Ogunquit, in addition to its own
24 share, pays the amount the State would have added to
25 its subsidy if it was not for the stipulation in the
26 dissolution agreement between the State and the 2
27 towns. It also divides the cost of any new school
28 construction projects on the basis of the number of
29 pupils in the 2 towns.

30 This bill also gives the Towns of Wells and
31 Ogunquit the same methods of withdrawing from or dis-
32 solving their community school district as is availa-
33 ble to other municipalities which are part of commu-
34 nity school districts. Until July 1, 1996, the divi-
35 sion of costs between the towns and the State will be
36 the same as those under the original agreement which
37 allowed Ogunquit to separate from the Town of Wells.

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