MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document   NO. 1980

H.P. 1469   House of Representatives, January 7, 1988
     Submitted by the Department of Educational and Cultural
Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
     Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and
ordered printed.
                                    EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative SMALL of Bath.
     Cosponsored by Senators ESTES of York, RANDALL of
Washington, and Representative O'GARA of Westbrook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1   AN ACT to Clarify the Method of Computing
2   Unusual Enrollment Adjustments.
3

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

6   20-A MRSA §15612, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL
7   1983 , c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, is amended to read:

8   A.   A school administrative unit may qualify for
9   an unusual enrollment adjustment when the increase

Page 1-LR4510

1   in pupils between October 1st of the year of
2   allocation of funds and October 1st of the year
3   prior to the year of allocation of funds is 3% or
4   more.   The number of pupils in excess of a 3%
5   increase shall be multiplied by the foundation per
6   pupil operating rate as established in section
7   15603 to determine the allowable adjustment.   The
8   amount of the adjustment shall be the sum of the
9   following:

10   (1)   The number of elementary pupils in
11   excess of a 3% increase in the elementary
12   enrollment times the elementary foundation
13   per pupil operating rate; and

14   (2)   The number of secondary pupils in excess
15   of a 3% increase in the secondary enrollment
16   times the secondary foundation per pupil
17   operating rate.

18   If the number of excess elementary pupils in
19   subparagraph (1) is zero or if the number of
20   excess secondary pupils in subparagraph (2) is
21   zero, then the amount of the adjustment shall be
22   the product of the number of elementary and
23   secondary pupils in excess of 3% increase in the
24   combined elementary and secondary enrollment times
25   either the appropriate foundation per pupil
26   operating rate; the elementary foundation per
27   pupil operating rate, if the number of excess
28   elementary pupils in subparagraph (1) is greater
29   than zero; or the secondary foundation per pupil
30   operating rate, if the number of excess secondary
31   pupils in subparagraph (2) is greater than zero.

32   STATEMENT OF FACT

33   Currently, adjustments for unusual enrollment
34   increases do not recognize the fact that per pupil
35   costs for elementary students are different from, and
36   typically lower than, per pupil costs for secondary
37   students.   The annual computation of the elementary
38   foundation per pupil operating rate and the secondary

1 per pupil operating rate does reflect these
2 differences. The current method of computing
3 adjustments for unusual enrollment does not consider
4 these 2 operating rates. Instead, the current method
5 considers only the kindergarten to grade 12 foundation
6 per pupil operating rate; a rate that reflects a
7 higher than realistic cost for elementary pupils and
8 reflects a lower than realistic cost for secondary
9 pupils.

10 The change to the School Finance Act would insure
11 that the amount of the adjustment would more
12 realistically reflect the actual increase in
13 educational costs that is caused by unusual enrollment
14 increases. The bill would accomplish this by
15 separating the computation into 2 parts: (1) An
16 elementary part, using counts of elementary pupils
17 above a 3% increase and the elementary foundation per
18 pupil operating rate; and (2) A secondary part, using
19 counts of secondary pupils above a 3% increase and the
20 secondary per pupil operating rate.

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