

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2058

H.P. 1508 House of Representatives, January 14, 1988  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the  
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and  
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative BOST of Orono.

Cosponsored by Representative DIAMOND of Bangor, Senator  
ESTES of York and Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Continue the Block Grants for  
Teacher Salaries.

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3

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

6 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13507, sub-§2, as enacted  
7 by PL 1985, c. 505, §8, is amended to read:

8 2. Block grants. Where a teacher bargaining  
9 agent exists, the teacher bargaining agent and school

1 administrative unit or qualifying private school  
2 shall, at a minimum, in accordance with the collective  
3 bargaining procedures set forth in Title 26, chapter  
4 9-A, negotiate, or where a contract is in effect,  
5 reopen negotiations, as to the use of the block grant  
6 funds provided in section 13509 for teacher  
7 salaries. Any funds not expended locally by the end  
8 of one fiscal year are to be expended pursuant to  
9 section 13509, subsection 4, paragraph 6. If an  
10 agreement as to the use of the block grant has been  
11 reached by the school board and bargaining agent, a  
12 "Certificate of Agreement" must be signed by both  
13 parties. Where no bargaining agent exists, school  
14 systems or qualifying private schools shall consult  
15 with teachers as to the use of the block grant funds  
16 provided in section 13509 for teacher salaries.

17 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13509, sub-§3-A is enacted  
18 to read:

19 3-A. School year 1988-89. Each school  
20 administrative unit and qualifying private school  
21 shall receive a block grant, computed pursuant to  
22 subsection 4 to be used to enhance teacher salaries.

23 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13509, sub-§4, as enacted  
24 by PL 1985, c. 505, §10, is amended to read:

25 4. Computation of block grants. The commissioner  
26 shall allocate the money appropriated by the  
27 Legislature for block grants in 1986-87 and,  
28 1987-88 and 1988-89 in accordance with the following  
29 conditions.

30 A. The purpose of the block grant payments is to  
31 assist school administrative units and qualifying  
32 private schools to meet the minimum salary  
33 objectives set forth in sections 13403 and 13404  
34 and to otherwise recognize the importance of  
35 teaching in the schools of the State.

36 B. The amount of the grants to individual units  
37 and qualifying private schools shall generally  
38 reflect the costs that would be necessary to  
39 achieve the minimum salary objectives set forth in

1 this section and as computed in accordance with a  
2 prototype schedule established by the  
3 commissioner.

4 C. For the purpose of calculating block grant  
5 amounts only, 6% per year normal teacher salary  
6 increases will be assumed to occur at the local  
7 level. This assumption will be reviewed by the  
8 commissioner prior to the computation of grant  
9 amounts for 1987-88 and may be revised if the  
10 evidence suggests the need for revision.

11 D. All units shall receive a minimum grant of  
12 \$400 per teacher in 1986-87 and \$800 per teacher  
13 in 1987-88. The maximum grant per teacher in  
14 1986-87 shall be \$1,800. Any computed entitlement  
15 that was not paid in 1986-87 as a result of the  
16 \$1,800 per teacher limit shall be paid in  
17 1987-88. All units shall receive a block grant of  
18 \$800 per teacher in 1988-89.

19 E. The number of teachers to be used in computing  
20 block grant payments in 1986-87 shall include the  
21 number of full-time equivalent teachers eligible  
22 to receive the February 1986 teacher recognition  
23 grant in each unit or qualifying private school,  
24 plus any additional certified teachers whose local  
25 employment responsibility includes an assignment  
26 to work directly with students in an instructional  
27 or counseling relationship on a regular basis,  
28 excluding teachers whose salaries are paid from  
29 federal funds. The number of teachers to be used  
30 in computing block grant payments for 1987-88  
31 shall be based on the local staff information data  
32 supplied to the department in October 1986. The  
33 number of teachers to be used in computing block  
34 grant payments for 1988-89 shall be based on the  
35 local staff information data supplied to the  
36 Department of Educational and Cultural Services in  
37 October 1987.

38 F. The department shall collect the necessary  
39 data to allow the recognition grants to be paid in  
40 February and August 1986 and for the block grants  
41 to be paid as supplemental monthly payments in  
42 1986-87 and in, 1987-88 and 1988-89. Block  
43 grant payments will

1 be made directly to vocational regions and  
2 qualifying private schools on or before October  
3 15th and April 15th in 1986-87 and, 1987-88 and  
4 1988-89, based on the submission of information to  
5 the commissioner indicating that those payments  
6 are being used to meet the purposes of this  
7 section.

8 G. Each school administrative unit shall be  
9 permitted to carry forward unused block grant  
10 money from one fiscal year to the next succeeding  
11 year, based on information provided to the  
12 commissioner indicating that the money to be  
13 carried forward will be used to meet the purposes  
14 of this section.

15 H. The amounts required to meet the employer's  
16 share of teacher retirement costs attributable to  
17 block grant payments in 1986-87 and, 1987-88  
18 and 1988-89 shall be transferred to the Maine  
19 State Retirement System in the appropriate year.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 The purposes of this bill are: (1) To provide for  
22 continuation of the payment of block grants to school  
23 administrative units for the enhancement of teacher  
24 salaries; (2) to require that block grant money be  
25 used to enhance teacher salaries in the year in which  
26 it is paid out; and (3) to establish a local process  
27 for deciding how block grant funds will be used in  
28 school administrative units which do not have a  
29 collective bargaining agent.

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