

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 39, L.D. 39, Bill, "An Act to Establish Appropriate Class Size in the Early Elementary Grades"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act Directing the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to Study Class Size and Related Issues'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Study of class size and related issues authorized. The Department of Educational and Cultural Services is directed to conduct a study of class size and related issues in public elementary schools. In conducting the study, the department shall:

1. Thoroughly assess the current situation throughout the State with respect to actual class sizes employed by school administrative units;

2. Review the teacher-student and support staff-student ratios which exist in elementary schools;

3. Survey and summarize the finding of current literature in the area of class size research;

4. Examine the impact of class size reductions in recent years as a result of implementation of early childhood educational plans grants, school-wide innovative grants, school restructuring projects and for other reasons;

5. Assess the impact of class size reductions on teaching methods, on the ability to provide developmentally appropriate

curriculum and on student learning and self-esteem; and

6. Specifically address the class size recommendations of the Special Commission to Study Early Childhood Development and Education and develop cost projections for implementation of the commission's class size recommendations in grades kindergarten to 4, including the costs of additional required staff, school construction and equipment.

Sec. 2. Report. The department shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by February 15, 1990. Following consideration of the report, the committee may introduce legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1989-90

**EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Curriculum - Education

All Other \$3,000

FISCAL NOTE

This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to contract for services to conduct a study of class size and related issues. If the Governor's supplemental budget request for an additional position in the Division of Curriculum, Office of Early Childhood is enacted, the department will be able to absorb the cost of the study within existing resources and the appropriation can be deleted.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment replaces the original bill which established a phased-in reduction in class size in grades kindergarten to 4 over the next 5 years. That bill was recommended by the Special Commission to Study Early Childhood Development and Education. This amendment directs the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to conduct a study on the impact of class size reductions and to estimate the cost of implementing the reductions.