

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 465

H.P. 346

House of Representatives, February 27, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Ed Pert*

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative KILKELLY of Wiscasset.

Cosponsored by Representative NORTON of Winthrop, Representative BREWER of Boothbay Harbor and Senator ESTES of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

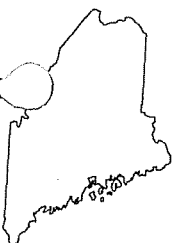
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

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An Act to Assist Local Educational Authorities in Replacing Unsafe  
School Buses.

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

3 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §2017, as amended by PL 1979, c. 691, §22, is  
5 further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

7 In addition to the inspection required by the first  
9 paragraph of this section, any bus with a model year of 1977 or  
11 later shall undergo a yearly safety inspection to determine a  
13 safety rating value pursuant to section 2021. The State shall  
15 reimburse for the cost of the inspection the appropriate school  
17 authorities or the owner.

19 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §2021 is enacted to read:

21 §2021. School bus safety-rating system

23 1. Safety-rating system. The department shall develop a  
25 school bus safety-rating system which evaluates seat height, seat  
27 back padding, chassis, frame and roof strength and all other  
29 elements required in a normal inspection procedure.

31 2. Compiling ratings. Each school shall be responsible for  
33 compiling a rating for each bus which that school uses. The  
35 school shall forward all rating information to the department.

37 3. Priority list. The department shall maintain a priority  
39 list of buses which need to be replaced based on the ratings of  
41 the buses.

43 4. Formula. The department shall develop a formula which  
45 combines the school funding formula and the bus rating value to  
47 equal a percentage of reimbursement due to the municipality which  
49 replaces a bus. The formula shall be structured so that the more  
51 unsafe a bus, the higher the rating and the greater the  
53 percentage of reimbursement.

55 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

All Other	\$12,500
Capital Expenditures	10,000,000

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES

TOTAL	\$10,012,500
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Provides funds to inspect 250  
buses and to purchase new  
buses through a percentage  
reimbursement system; 2/3 of

1           these funds shall be used to  
3           replace pre-1977 school buses.

5                               **STATEMENT OF FACT**

7  
9           This bill provides funding to municipal school districts for  
11          the inspection and replacement of unsafe pre-1977 school buses.  
13          Two thirds of the money appropriated for school bus purchases  
15          will be used to replace pre-1977 buses. The department will  
17          develop a safety rating that addresses seat height, seat back  
19          padding, chassis, frame and roof strength, as well as the normal  
21          inspection procedure. Rating information will be forwarded by  
            the school to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services  
            which will maintain a priority list of unsafe buses based on this  
            data. A formula will be developed that combines the school  
            funding formula plus bus rating to equal the percentage of  
            reimbursement. The more unsafe the bus, the higher the rating  
            and the greater the incentive for schools to replace them.