

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 762, L.D. 1066, Bill, "An Act Concerning Educational Enhancement"

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

20-A MRSA §17105 is enacted to read:

§17105. Enhanced quality of time grants

1. Objectives. Grants must be awarded to enhance the instructional quality of the school day. The grants must be used by school administrative units to implement projects designed to achieve enhancement objectives that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Improving teacher planning time;
- B. Relieving teachers from nonteaching duties;
- C. Eliminating nonessential interruptions of class time;
- D. Planning and implementing better utilization of class scheduling;
- E. Providing enforcement of school attendance laws; and
- F. Providing for smaller class sizes.

2. Development of grant proposals. Proposals for use of grant funds under this section must be developed by a local planning committee. The development of a grant proposal must be a collaborative effort including teachers, support personnel, administrators, parents and school board members, with a majority of the committee consisting of teachers. Proposals developed by the committee must be presented as recommendations to the superintendent and the school board for action. The school board

2 shall make the final decision on whether a grant application is
3 submitted and on the content of the proposal.

4 3. Grant application. School administrative units applying
5 for grants under this section shall submit their application to
6 the commissioner by March 1st of each year. The commissioner
7 shall notify units of the decision for grant award or denial by
8 July 1st of each year. The grant allocation, as determined in
9 subsection 4, must be distributed to a school administrative unit
10 by the commissioner by September 1st of each year.

11 4. Allocation of grants. The State shall provide each
12 school administrative unit with a minimum of \$2,000 or \$20 per
13 pupil, whichever is greater, based on the previous October's
14 enrollment. The grants must be made annually commencing in July
15 1991, and terminate after 3 years unless continued by act of the
16 Legislature.

17 A. The department shall develop a process for evaluating
18 enhanced quality of time grants. Beginning in July 1992,
19 the department shall use that evaluation process to assess
20 the effectiveness of the grants awarded in fiscal year
21 1991-92 and fiscal year 1992-93 in improving instructional
22 quality in schools. The department shall present the results
23 of the evaluation to the joint standing committee of the
24 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by
25 January 1, 1994. The report must include, at a minimum, the
26 recommendation of the department on whether the grants
27 program should be continued and, if continued, how it should
28 be financed, including whether the grants should be
29 incorporated into the school funding formula or held outside
30 the formula forever. During the evaluation process, the
31 department shall develop a manual of effective practices and
32 working models to assist schools in improving the use of
33 instructional time. Following consideration of the
34 department's recommendations, the committee may introduce
35 legislation for consideration by the Second Regular Session
36 of the 116th Legislature.

37 5. Utilization of grants negotiable. The utilization of
38 the enhanced quality of time grants is a negotiable item to the
39 extent that there is an impact upon working conditions, hours or
40 salaries as set forth in Title 26, chapter 9-A, and, when a
41 contract is in effect prior to the awarding of a grant, is cause
42 for reopening negotiations as to the use of the grant funds.

43 6. Rule-making authority. The commissioner shall establish
44 rules to carry out this section.

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FISCAL NOTE

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This bill requires additional General Fund appropriations of approximately \$4,300,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 1991-92.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment deletes provisions of the original bill establishing grant programs for advanced study by teachers and to reward career teachers. The amendment retains and revises the grant program to schools to encourage more effective use of school time.

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The amendment provides a collaborative process for development, at the local level, of a plan on how to use the grants to improve instructional time while retaining the final authority with the school board on whether to apply for such a grant and how to use it.

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The amendment also clarifies that the instructional time grants program is for 3 years and directs the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to study the operation of the grants and to report to the Legislature at the end of 3 years on whether they would be continued and, if so, how they should be funded.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note.

Reported by the Committee on Education
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House
3/8/90 (Filing No. H-896)