

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)



114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1066

H.P. 762

House of Representatives, April 5, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs.

Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Representative NORTON of Winthrop and Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Concerning Educational Enhancement.



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

3 Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §12511 and 12512 are enacted to read:

5 §12511. Funds for additional course work or pursuing advanced
7 degrees

9 1. Blaine House Scholarship Grants Program. There is
11 established the Blaine House Scholarship Grants Program to
13 provide financial assistance for post-secondary education of
15 advanced degree or continued study by teachers. The program
17 shall be administered by the commissioner.

19 2. Costs covered. The scholarship grants may be used for
21 travel, day care, books, student fees and other related costs.

23 3. Application. Applications shall be submitted to the
25 commissioner at a time and in a format to be determined by rule
27 of the commissioner. The rules adopted by the commissioner shall
29 provide for teachers to receive grant funds in advance of the
31 courses actually being taken.

33 4. Disbursement. Grant funds shall be disbursed to the
35 teacher at the rate of \$50 per approved credit hour up to a
37 maximum of \$450 per year. Grant funds shall be paid by the
39 commissioner directly to the teacher.

41 5. Funds supplemental. Grant funds shall supplement and not
43 supplant any funds available from a local education agency.

45 §12512. Nonlapsing revolving fund

47 A nonlapsing, interest-earning revolving fund, known as the
49 Blaine House Scholarship Grants, is created to implement the
51 purposes of subsection 12511. Any unexpended balance of funds
may be carried over for continued use in the program. The
revolving fund may receive, invest and expend funds from gifts,
grants, bequests and donations in addition to funds appropriated
by the State. The fund shall be administered by the commissioner.

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

2. Career teacher salary grants. Where ~~When~~ a teacher bargaining agent exists, the teacher bargaining agent and school administrative unit or qualifying private school shall, at a minimum, in accordance with the collective bargaining procedures set forth in Title 26, chapter 9-A, negotiate, or, where ~~when~~ a contract is in effect, reopen negotiations, as to the use of the ~~block-grant-funds~~ career teacher salary grants provided in section 13509 for teacher salaries salary schedules. ~~Any funds not expended locally by the end of one fiscal year are to be~~

1 ~~expended pursuant to section 13509, subsection 4, paragraph G. If~~
2 ~~an agreement as to the use of the career teacher salary grants~~
3 ~~has been reached by the local education agency and bargaining~~
4 ~~agent, a certificate of agreement shall be signed by both parties~~
5 ~~before funds are disbursed by the State. When no bargaining~~
6 ~~agent exists, local education agencies or qualifying private~~
7 ~~schools shall consult with teachers as to the use of the career~~
8 ~~teacher salary schedule grant provided in section 13509 for~~
9 ~~teacher salaries.~~

11 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13509, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

13 3-A. Allocation of salary grants. The commissioner shall
14 allocate the money appropriated by the Legislature for career
15 salary grants in accordance with the following conditions.

17 A. All units shall receive a grant of \$750 per teacher in
18 1989-90 and 1990-91. After 1991, career salary schedule
19 grants shall be incorporated in the school funding formula.

21 B. The number of teachers to be used in computing the
22 salary grant payments in 1989-90 shall include the number of
23 full-time equivalent teachers whose local employment
24 responsibility includes an assignment to work directly with
25 students in an instructional or counseling relationship on a
26 regular basis, excluding teachers whose salaries are paid
27 from federal funds. The number of teachers to be used in
28 computing salary grant payments for 1989-90 shall be based
29 on the local staff information data supplied to the
30 department in October 1988. The number of teachers to be
31 used in computing salary grant payments for 1990-91 shall be
32 based on the local staff information data supplied to the
33 department in October 1989.

35 C. Career teacher salary grants shall supplement and not
36 supplant funds available from the local education agency,
37 and these grants shall not be considered as offsets to the
38 local education agency during local collective bargaining
39 for the purpose of setting teachers' salaries.

41 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §17105** is enacted to read:

43 §17105. Enhanced quality of time grants

45 1. Objectives. Grants shall be awarded to enhance the
46 instructional quality of the school day. These projects may
47 include, but are not limited to, the following objectives:

49 A. Improving teacher planning time;

51 B. Relieving teachers from nonteaching duties;

1 in fiscal year 1990-91 for
3 grants to improve the quality
of the present school day.

5

7

STATEMENT OF FACT

9 This bill enhances the quality of public education in public
schools by:

11

13 1. Creating and providing funding to the Blaine House
15 Scholarship Program to assist educators in pursuing additional
17 course work or advanced degrees. These funds would supplement,
not replace, other course reimbursement or scholarship funds.
They would be paid directly to the teacher to be used for travel,
day care, books or to replace lost income;

19

21 2. Awarding grants for career educator salary enhancement.
These funds would be allocated at a rate of \$750 per teacher for
23 1989-90 and 1990-91. The funds would be subject to local
negotiations and a sign-off by the local bargaining agent. The
25 money is aimed at improving the pay of veteran educators who may
have been disadvantaged by the change in mandated base salaries
and to improve Maine's national rankings of average teacher
27 salaries to reflect Maine's national ranking of per capita
income; and

29

31 3. Awarding grants to schools to enhance the quality of the
school day. These funds could be used to improve planning time,
33 increase teacher preparation time, relieve teachers of
nonteaching duties, eliminate nonessential interruptions of class
time, implement better class scheduling or enforce school
attendance laws.

35