

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. 1345

H.P. 967

House of Representatives, April 25, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative MARSANO of Belfast.
Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Improve and Enhance the Quality and Amount of
Instructional Time for Students.



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

3 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5, ¶L**, as amended by PL 1985, c.
5 774, §§4 and 11, is further amended to read:

7 L. Prepare and implement an ~~en-geing~~ ongoing school
9 improvement process and annually update a written school
11 improvement plan, including a plan for improving and
13 enhancing the quality and amount of instructional time for
15 students, a fully developed staff development plan and a
17 plan addressing truants, dropouts, alternative education,
19 prevention of truancy and return to school, citing progress
21 and trends with respect to school improvement.

23 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1985, c.
25 624, is further amended to read:

27 1. **Number.** A school administrative unit shall make
29 provision for the maintenance of all of its schools for at least
31 180 days a year, through the 1989-90 school year, with a minimum
33 increase of one additional day each year beginning with the
35 1990-91 school year, resulting in a minimum of 185 days in
37 1994-95 and thereafter. At least 175 days shall be used for
39 instruction through the 1989-90 school year resulting in a
41 minimum of 180 instructional days in 1994-95 and thereafter. In
43 meeting the minimum school year requirement ~~of a 180-day school~~
45 ~~year, no more than~~ , as many as 5 days may be used for in-service
47 education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher
49 conferences, records' days and similar activities.

51 A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the minimum number
53 of days required on application from a school board. The
55 application must be supported in writing with a statement of
57 the reasons for the request.

59 B. Notwithstanding any other section of the statutes,
61 school committees, with the approval of the commissioner,
63 may adopt or amend rules necessary to implement an extended
65 school year at the local level. The commissioner may make
67 appropriate adjustments, not to exceed the allowable
69 subsidy, to insure fair and equitable treatment in the
71 distribution of state aid.

73 C. Notwithstanding this subsection, the commissioner shall
75 promulgate a rule to provide that local school units may
77 allow secondary school students to graduate up to 5 school
79 days prior to the regular end of the school year.

81 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15603, sub-§2, ¶¶D and E**, as enacted by PL
83 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, are amended to read:

85 D. Major capital costs; and

1 E. Expenditures from all federal revenue sources, except
3 for amounts received under United States Public Law 81-874,
5 ; and

7 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15603, sub-§2, ¶F is enacted to read:

9 F. Amounts received from the State to pay for quality
11 incentive grants under section 17105 and extended school
13 year grants under section 15613, subsection 14.

15 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15605, sub-§2, ¶H is enacted to read:

17 H. The requested funding levels to provide extended school
19 year grants to school administrative units shall be computed
21 pursuant to section 15613.

23 Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15607, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

25 13. Appropriation for extended school year grants.
27 Appropriate the necessary funds for extended school year grants
29 pursuant to section 15613.

31 Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §15613, sub-§14 is enacted to read:

33 14. Extended school year grants. Effective 1990-91 and
35 thereafter, each school administrative unit shall receive a grant
37 to pay for the extended school year requirement contained in
39 section 4801. The grant shall be equal to the product of the
41 unit's average total resident pupils in sections 5104 and 6004
43 educated at public expense in kindergarten to grade 12 on April
45 1st and October 1st of the calendar year prior to the year of the
47 grants times the average cost per instructional day, as annually
49 established by the commissioner using base year operating costs
51 updated to the current year, times the number of additional
school days required for that year.

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §17105 is enacted to read:

§17105. Quality incentive grants

Each school administrative unit shall receive a grant to
promote system-wide improvements in the quality of instructional
time for students, as follows.

1. 1989-90. Each unit shall receive a grant to support
school improvement planning as required in section 4502,
subsection 5, paragraph L, as follows:

A. \$1,000 for units with an average of fewer than 3,000
resident students in the prior calendar year; and

B. \$2,000 for units with an average of 3,000 or more resident students in the prior calendar year.

2. 1990-91. Each unit shall receive a grant allocation based on \$9 per student times its average number of resident students in the prior calendar year. The actual amount of the award to a unit shall be equal to the sum of 50% of its grant allocation plus 1/2 of its state share percentage for operating costs times its grant allocation. Grant money may be used to supplement local money to improve the quality of instructional time by:

A. Eliminating nonessential interruptions of class time;

B. Removing teachers from the performance of nonteaching duties;

C. Making better use of class scheduling;

D. Providing additional compensation incentives to teachers; and

E. Implementing other locally designed strategies.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for a gradual increase in the minimum school year starting in 1990. One day will be added in each of the following 5 years leading to a statutory minimum of 185 calendar days and 180 instructional days in 1994-95 and thereafter.

The State will provide grants to all school administrative units, outside of the School Finance Act, to pay for the school costs of each of these additional days. The commission will be required to annually compute the cost of a school day and each unit will receive a grant to pay for the number of additional school days required under this bill each year on an ongoing basis.

The bill also provides for grants to units to assist in the development of school improvement plans that address improvements in the quality and quantity of instructional time for students. In 1990-91, grants will be made available to support activities that are locally designed to improve quality of instruction time.