

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1622

(Filing No. H-555)

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1168, L.D. 1622, Bill, "An Act to Ensure Regular Attendance for All Maine School Children"

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. 20-A MRSA §5052-A is enacted to read:

§5052-A. Grants for school units for reducing truancy

1. Grants authorized. The department shall administer a grant program to assist school units in reducing truancy by providing money to establish full-time attendance coordinators in school administrative units.

2. Grant procedures. A school administrative unit may apply for a grant under this section to the department on a one-time only basis. The department shall award a 2-year grant not to exceed \$25,000 for each year to a school unit which:

A. Demonstrates:

(1) A plan of action for reducing irregular attendance and habitual truancy of students at the elementary and middle grade levels;

(2) A compelling need to implement this plan of action; and

(3) An assessment plan for the proposed plan of action; and

B. Complies with procedures established under subsection 4.

1 3. Reimbursement to school administrative units. Grant
awards under this section shall be deemed "local costs" for the
 3 purpose of computing state school subsidy under the School
Finance Act of 1985.

5 4. Rule-making authority. The commissioner may adopt rules
 7 to implement this section, including, but not limited to,
procedures for applying for grants and reports for expenditures
 9 by school administrative units.

11 5. Future appropriations. The department shall include in
its budget estimates under Title 5, chapter 149, requests for
 13 funding adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

15 **Sec. 2. Evaluation.** The Department of Educational and
 Cultural Services shall provide for an independent evaluation of
 17 the effectiveness of the grant program established in this Act.
 The department shall submit the report on its evaluation,
 19 including findings and recommendations, to the joint standing
 committee having jurisdiction over educational matters to the
 21 115th Legislature not later than January 1, 1991. The department
 is authorized to expend up to \$10,000 appropriated by this Act
 23 during fiscal years 1990 and 1991 for completing the evaluation
 and report.

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

	1989-90	1990-91
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,		
DEPARTMENT OF		
Administration - Education		
All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
Provides funds for grants to assist school units in reducing truancy and up to \$10,000 for an evaluation and report on the grant program by the department.		

45 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

47 This amendment replaces the original bill. The amendment
 49 establishes a grant program to assist school administrative units
 in hiring full-time attendance coordinators to help reduce
 51 truancy. The amendment also provides for an evaluation of the
 program and a report to the 115th Legislature on its
 53 effectiveness.