

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1685, L.D. 2333, Bill, "An Act to Provide Greater Opportunities for Orphans and Foster 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 §5401, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

6. State reimbursement for certain residents. The commissioner shall reimburse a school administrative unit for approved transportation of students who reside on state-owned property located in towns of less than 100 residents or, who are temporary residents or who are in the custody of the Department of Human Services and living in a residential child care facility providing long-term care for 6 or more children who are state wards as provided in section 5802-A, if those students reside more than 2 miles from the school.

A. A superintendent, with the approval of the school board, shall report these students to the commissioner. The report shall include any other information the commissioner requires.

B. The commissioner may direct the unit to provide transportation or board if transportation is deemed determined inadvisable.

C. ~~On~~ Upon receiving a bill of expenses for transportation or board from a school administrative unit, the commissioner shall, in December, reimburse it for those expenses from the department appropriation for that purpose.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5802-A is enacted to read:

§5802-A. State wards

Beginning in school year 1991-92, the commissioner shall pay a school administrative unit's actual local per pupil education expenditure for each student attending school in the unit who is in the custody of the Department of Human Services and living in a residential child care facility located in the unit that is serving 6 or more state wards and whose mission is to provide long-term care to children who have been determined to be unlikely to be returned to their own home or to be adopted. For the purposes of this section, "long-term care" means care that is intended to last throughout a child's minority and is provided to children who have been placed prior to 12 years of age or who are members of sibling groups, at least one of whom is under 12 years of age, at the time of placement.

Sec. 3. Assessment of implementation of this Act. The Department of Education and the Department of Human Services shall jointly assess the implementation of this Act and submit a written report on the results of their assessment to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by December 1, 1992. The departments shall also submit a copy of their report to the Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. The report must include a summary of the number of students and facilities covered by this Act, the costs of providing educational services to state wards under this Act, an evaluation of the need for the type of facilities provided in this Act and any recommendations for future action.

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Education will require additional General Fund appropriations beginning in fiscal year 1991-92 for education and transportation costs for qualifying state wards. The estimated cost to the department in fiscal year 1991-92 is approximately \$30,000 which could increase in subsequent years to as much as \$250,000.

The Department of Education and the Department of Human Services will be able to absorb the additional cost of the report required in section 3 of the bill.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment requires the State, beginning in fiscal year 1991-92, to reimburse school administrative units for education and transportation costs of students who are state wards living in residential child care facilities that provide long-term care

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1685, L.D. 2333

2 to 6 or more state wards. The amendment also requires the
Department of Education and the Department of Human Services to
4 assess the implementation of this amendment and to report to the
Joint Standing Committee on Education by December 1, 1992.

Reported by the Committee on Education
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House
3/27/90 (Filing No. H-1010)