

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 792

S.P. 294

In Senate, February 26, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator McCORMICK of Kennebec

Cosponsored by Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs, Senator ESTES of York  
and Representative AULT of Wayne.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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An Act to Encourage the Return of Students to School.

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

20-A MRSA §15612, sub-§14 is enacted to read:

14. Dropout recruitment incentive adjustment. A school administrative unit is entitled to an adjustment for enrolling students who have dropped out of school as provided in this subsection. A school administrative unit enrolling dropouts is entitled to receive:

A. For the first school year dropouts return to school, the elementary foundation per pupil operating rate times the number of dropouts returning to elementary school plus the secondary foundation per pupil operating rate times the number of dropouts returning to secondary school; and

B. For the 2nd and each subsequent year in which former dropouts remain enrolled in school, for only those school administrative units for which the state share percentage of subsidized educational costs is less than the average state share percentage of subsidized educational costs, the elementary foundation per pupil operating rate times the number of dropouts remaining in elementary school plus the secondary foundation per pupil operating rate times the number of dropouts remaining in secondary school.

The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this subsection, including definitions of the terms "dropout" and "return to school" and shall, upon request, provide technical assistance to units on the use of the adjustment received under this subsection to provide and enhance appropriate services for dropouts.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Through an adjustment in the school funding formula, this bill provides an incentive to schools to reenroll students who have dropped out. For the first year that dropouts return to school, a school unit receives as part of its state subsidy the statewide average per pupil operating rate times the number of dropouts it enrolls. This is an incentive because under the funding formula the pupil count lags a year behind, and those students would not begin to be counted for subsidy purposes until the following year. In the 2nd year, a unit that receives less than the average state share subsidy would continue to get the statewide average per pupil operating rate times the number of dropouts it retains on its roll as a continued incentive. Units that receive at or above the average state share subsidy would get their normal reimbursement under the formula in the 2nd and subsequent years.

2           The Department of Education is directed to adopt rules  
3 necessary to implement this bill and to provide technical  
4 assistance to school units in providing appropriate services for  
dropouts once reenrolled in school.