MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1994

Legislative Document

No. 2003

S.P. 776

In Senate, April 5, 1994

Resolve, Authorizing the Examination of School Finance and Taxation Proposals.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator AMERO of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL). Cosponsored by Senators: O'DEA of Penobscot, PEARSON of Penobscot, Representatives: CLOUTIER of South Portland, MITCHELL of Vassalboro, SMALL of Bath.

- Sec. 1. Department of Education authorized to examine school funding proposal that establishes essential programs and services. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall review and analyze proposals for establishing essential programs and essential services, as described in the document entitled the School Finance Act of 1994, presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by the department on March 9, 1994. The department shall invite interested individuals and groups to provide written comments on the draft proposal; and be it further
 - Sec. 2. State Board of Education to hold public hearings. Resolved: That the State Board of Education shall hold public hearings statewide on the School Finance Act of 1994; and be it further
- Sec. 3. Reporting dates established. Resolved: That the State Board of Education shall inform the Department of Education of its findings throughout the public hearing process. The department shall report its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 1995; and be it further
- Sec. 4. Subcommittee authorized to review taxation issues related to funding public schools. Resolved: That a subcommittee consisting of 5 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and 5 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation shall review and analyze the current tax structure for funding public schools and prepare, if warranted, recommendations for change. The chairs of each committee, with committee advice, shall appoint 5 members of their respective committees to the review subcommittee; and be it further
- Sec. 5. Reporting date established. Resolved: That the subcommittee shall report its findings to the Legislature by January 15, 1995.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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This resolve directs the Department of Education to review and analyze proposals for changing the school funding formula included in a document entitled the School Finance Act of 1994. The resolve requires that the department solicit written comments on the proposed changes from interested groups and individuals and requires that the State Board of Education hold public hearings on the amendment. The department is required to report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 1995.

The resolve also establishes a subcommittee to review, analyze and, if necessary, make recommendations for changes in the current tax structure for funding public schools. The subcommittee consists of 10 members, 5 from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and 5 from the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. The subcommittee is required to submit its findings to the Legislature by January 15, 1995.

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