

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 350

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 248, L.D. 350, Bill, "An Act to Encourage Collaboration between Local School Units"

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 §17101, as amended by PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §74, is further amended to read:

§17101. Intent

The intent of this chapter is to promote creative improvement in the schools of the State. The Commissioner of Education shall promote innovative projects by means of grants to teachers, school administrative units or private schools approved for tuition purposes or groups of school administrative units formed for the purpose of providing improved educational opportunity through the sharing of resources among the member units. A group of school administrative units seeking a grant in accordance with this chapter shall provide written verification to the commissioner that each school administrative unit comprising the group has agreed to the grant criteria established by the department. The group shall designate one school administrative unit to act as fiscal agent for the group. To promote the greatest possible benefits statewide, a school administrative unit is limited to one grant at a time, whether the grant is received separately or as part of a group. It is

R 48

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 248, L.D. 350

not the intent of this chapter to provide funds for programs or services normally provided by those school systems. Project dissemination will be accomplished through the department through instructional support group staff. The use of state, regional and national diffusion networks will be encouraged.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

The original bill encouraged local school units to enter into collaborative ventures to pursue the sharing of resources by making such collaborative ventures eligible for the innovative grants program.

This amendment adds 3 provisions to the bill:

1. It requires that each school administrative unit participating in a collaborative venture and receiving an innovative grant agree in writing to the terms of the grant;

2. It requires that each group of school administrative units receiving an innovative grant designate one unit as the fiscal agent for the grant; and

3. It prohibits a school administrative unit acting separately or as part of a group from receiving more than one innovative grant at a time.