

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

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Legislative Document

No. 780

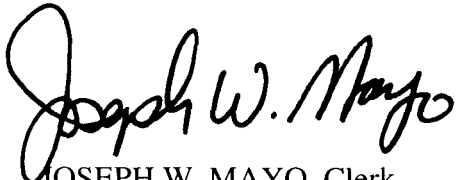
H.P. 575

House of Representatives, March 9, 1995

**An Act to Dedicate a Percentage of the Maine Sales Tax for School  
Funding.**

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SIMONEAU of Thomaston.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1517** is enacted to read:

6 **§1517. Maine Education Fund**

8 The Maine Education Fund is established for the purpose of increasing state funding for public schools.

10 1. Source of funds. A portion of the state sales tax is dedicated to the Maine Education Fund. Each month, the State Tax Assessor shall transfer an amount equivalent to 1% of the total taxable sales for the previous month to the Maine Education Fund, as described in Title 36, section 1811.

16 2. Distribution of funds. The Governor shall direct the Commissioner of Education to establish a method of allocation for Maine Education Fund money, as described in Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 11.

20 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §254, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

22 11. Maine Education Fund. The commissioner shall administer, as directed by the Governor, the Maine Education Fund established in Title 5, section 1517. The commissioner shall establish a method of allocation of Maine Education Fund money. The method of allocation must:

28 A. Ensure that the school districts of the State's least wealthy communities receive a greater proportion of the money than those of the wealthier communities. The wealth of a community must be determined by the state valuation of the school administrative unit;

34 B. Provide a school district with a conservative estimate of the annual amount of money the school district can expect to receive from the Maine Education Fund; and

38 C. Contain a disbursement method that, to the greatest extent possible, minimizes the effect of seasonal fluctuations of sales tax revenue.

42 The commissioner shall require a brief report from recipient school districts to permit the department and the Legislature to determine annually how the funds were used by the school districts.

48 **Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §1811**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 701, §§6 and 7 and affected by §10, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

